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December 29, 2008

Mr. Bill Wheeler
Chairman
Yakima Air Terminal Board
Yakima Air Terminal - McAllister Field
2400 West Washington Avenue
Yakima, Washington 98903

RE: Proposed Yakima Airport Overlay Ordinance and Primary Airport Overlay Zone

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) is a membership organization consisting of more than 414,000 pilots and aircraft owners nationwide, 12,142 of whom reside in the state of Washington. AOPA is committed to ensuring the continued viability, growth and development of general aviation and airports in Washington and the United States.

We are writing to express our support of the proactive steps the Air Terminal Board is taking to ensure the current and future protection of the Yakima Air Terminal - McAllister Field (YKM). AOPA appreciates the opportunity to review the proposed airport overlay ordinance and the update to the Primary Airport Overlay Zone and commends the Air Terminal Board for taking positive steps to fulfill their State and Federal obligations to protect the airport from incompatible land uses around YKM.

Based on our review, the proposed changes includes measures that should be effective in limiting development that could potentially impact operations at YKM or the health, welfare, and safety of the general public around the airport. The amendment reminding developers of the Federal Aviation Administration's requirement for an obstruction evaluation and airspace analysis when new construction is being considered in close proximity to the airport will help reduce potential obstructions impacting airport operations.

AOPA strongly encourages the Yakima Air Terminal Board to move forward with this important piece of airport protection. We look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure the safety and viability of YKM.

Sincerely,

John L. Collins
Manager
Airport Policy