

February 27, 2009

The Honorable Sarah Palin
Governor, State of Alaska
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Dear Governor Palin:

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA), a not-for-profit membership organization, represents the general aviation interests of over 416,000 members nationwide – including over 4,200 in Alaska. Since 1939, AOPA has been committed to ensuring the safety, future viability, and development of general aviation airports and their facilities as a part of our national transportation system. I write to urge your support of Alaska House Resolution 8 and Alaska Senate Resolution 6.

Through these resolutions adopted this week, Alaska's legislature has expressed the state's opposition to the Transportation Security Administration's Large Aircraft Security Program (LASP), which would impose commercial air carrier aviation security standards on all general aviation aircraft weighing over 12,500 pounds. Unfortunately, this proposed rule fails to address the significant, inherent differences between commercial air carrier operations and general aviation, and is an ill-conceived "one size fits all" approach to the complicated issue of aviation security. AOPA and other major aviation organizations have recommended the creation of a TSA rulemaking committee to find a more effective method of enhancing general aviation security, while ensuring the viability of general aviation operations.

You understand the vital importance of aviation in Alaska, a state in which the many types of general aviation are frequently the only reliable way to move goods, services and people in and out of many of the state's more remote communities. The LASP, in its current form, would significantly depress general aviation's multi-million dollar contribution to the Alaskan economy. According to TSA estimates, over 80% of the cost of implementation would be borne directly by the aircraft owner, and the cost of upgrading security facilities at many of Alaska's airports is estimated at over \$400,000 per airport.

Many single-engine aircraft owners, including myself, are especially wary of this program because it also creates the possibility that our smaller aircraft may eventually become part of this program. I hope that you will join me, the Alaska Legislature, and the AOPA membership in opposing this ill-conceived security program. Thank you for your consideration of this important general aviation issue.

Sincerely,



Craig L. Fuller

AIRCRAFT OWNERS AND PILOTS ASSOCIATION
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