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Frederick, Maryland 21701

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www.aopa.org

October 1, 2009

Dr. Shelley Schneider
Superintendent
Millville Public School System
110 North 3rd Street
P. O. Box 5010
Millville, NJ 08332

Dear Dr. Schneider:

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) represents the general aviation interests of 415,000 members, more than two-thirds of the nation's pilots - including 9,000 in the state of New Jersey. On behalf of our membership, AOPA is committed to ensuring the future viability and development of general aviation airports and their facilities as part of a national transportation system. Specifically at the local level, we promote compatible land use around our nation's airports.

Since this is an extremely critical issue to our membership, we write to convey to you our views and opposition to two of the proposed sites for the new Millville school district high school, which are in close proximity to the Millville Municipal Airport (MIV).

After our review of information available to us regarding the proposed sites, those of specific concern are the Cedar Street and Bogden Boulevard location, and the Hogbin Road site. Our review indicates that the Cedar Street site is under the visual traffic patterns for both Runways 14 and 10, and the Hogbin location is located in the final approach for Runway 14. Locating the school on either site would raise safety concerns, and likely would expose students, teachers and other school patrons to considerable noise, dust, fumes, vibrations, and other distractions and disturbances. It is our view that these two proposed sites are completely incompatible with the airport, and that the school should not be built in either of these locations.

Our experience across the country has taught us that the inherent land-use incompatibility between the airport and the school could well polarize the community to such an extent that it will create significant ongoing conflicts for planning, school, and local government officials. Attempts to force coexistence will most likely fail. Most importantly, once the school is in place, there is no effective way to fully mitigate future concerns that will surely arise. These concerns will inevitably lead to efforts to restrict operations at the airport.

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We urge the Millville Public School System to seek guidance from the airport sponsor – the Delaware River and Bay Authority, and take into consideration the other proposed sites that are not so close to the airport and affected by it. Additionally, we would refer school system and other local planners to land use handbooks developed by the states of California and Iowa, which have done a good job of outlining the best practices for school and airports.

Thank you for considering our views on this issue. If you have further questions please contact me at 301-695-2200.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joey Colleran".

Joey Colleran

Director of Advocacy

cc:

Mr. Max Patel, Director, Division of Aeronautics, New Jersey Department of Transportation

Mr. James E. Salmon, Public Information Officer, Delaware River and Bay Authority

Mr. Dave McCarthy, Operations Manager, Millville Municipal Airport

Mr. Gregory Winton, AOPA Eastern Region Representative

Mr. Bob Penven, AOPA Airport Support Network Volunteer MIV