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Mr. Anthony D. Roetzel
Manager, Operations Support Group
AJV-C2, Central Service Center
Air Traffic Organization
FAA Southwest Regional Office
2601 Meacham Boulevard
Fort Worth, TX 76137

Re: Proposed Modification of the Minneapolis/St. Paul Minnesota Class B Airspace Area

Mr. Roetzel,

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA), representing more than 400,000 members nationwide, submits the following comments in response to the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) proposed modification of the Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN Class B airspace area. Overall we are pleased with the proposed modifications and appreciate that the FAA is expanding the Class B airspace only where necessary to contain arriving and departing aircraft. One sector of the proposed design presents an opportunity for improvement that would decrease pilot confusion and the potential for inadvertent airspace incursions.

AOPA members have expressed concern with the complexity of design for the Class B airspace over Stanton Airfield (SYN) south of MSP. While the modification addresses concerns of access for the soaring community raised by AOPA, local pilots, and other organizations, it creates an alleyway of airspace that will confuse pilots and may result in inadvertent airspace incursions.

This small section of airspace is the western-most portion of the 7,000 - 10,000 foot sector directly above SYN, and is approximately 2 nm by 3 nm. Surrounding this airspace sector on three sides is Class B airspace with a floor at 6,000 ft. Given the size and surrounding airspace of this sector, it is limited in its utility and complicates the boundaries of the Class B airspace. In an effort to simplify the overall Class B design, AOPA requests that a more consistent Class B floor be utilized in this area while preserving the 7,000 foot floor directly over SYN.

We appreciate the opportunity to submit comments on the proposed modifications to the Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN Class B airspace area.

Sincerely,

Tom Kramer
Manager, Air Traffic Services