

June 3, 2011

The Honorable Richard Bloom  
Mayor  
City of Santa Monica  
1685 Main Street  
Santa Monica, CA 90401

Dear Mayor Bloom:

On behalf of more than 50,000 California members – with more than 400,000 nationwide – of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA), we are writing to express our appreciation for the recent decision by the Mayor and Council not to pursue further legal challenges to the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) ruling on the City's ordinance on Class C and D aircraft. This decision will allow the City of Santa Monica, the FAA, and other stakeholders to return to a meaningful discussion of how best to ensure safe operations at the airport.

AOPA respects the City's concern for safe operations at Santa Monica Airport (SMO). As the world's largest general aviation organization, AOPA is committed to ensuring both the safety and viability of general aviation airports and their facilities as a vital part of a multi-modal national transportation system. Through our Air Safety Institute and other channels, we also actively work to educate pilots on best practices for safety and "Friendly Flying" in urban environments. General Aviation pilots have a strong desire to be good neighbors, and nowhere more so than at SMO, which is at the same time one of the nation's most important, and most encroached upon GA airports.

As the City of Santa Monica pursues other avenues in discussing safety at SMO, we hope your first option will be to sit down with all interested parties to discuss these issues. AOPA offers to work with you, the FAA, and all other stakeholders in such an effort. Together, we should be able to plan a future for the airport that addresses legitimate community concerns, allows the City to meet its obligations as the airport sponsor, and preserves SMO's role as a vital part of the Southern California and national aviation systems.

Our Airports team will be visiting Santa Monica frequently over the next few months. We look forward to the opportunity to meet with you, the Airport Commission, and other stakeholders to begin these important discussions. In the meantime, should you have any questions, or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Very truly yours,



Craig L. Fuller  
AOPA President and CEO