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July 25, 2011

Deborah A.P. Hersman, Chairman  
National Transportation Safety Board  
490 L'Enfant Plaza East, SW  
Washington, DC 20594

Dear Ms. Hersman:

*Debbie*

The Air Safety Institute, a division of the non-profit AOPA Foundation, has reviewed NTSB Safety Recommendation A-11-52, which reads:

Educate pilots of *14 Code of Federal Regulations* Part 91 flight operations about the benefits of notifying passengers about the location and operation of survival and emergency communication equipment on board their airplanes.

As the charitable giving arm of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA), the AOPA Foundation has a broad charter to address the critical challenges of the present and future in four key areas: promoting safety (through the Air Safety Institute), preserving airports, restoring the pilot population, and improving the image of general aviation.

The Air Safety Institute, formerly the AOPA Air Safety Foundation, is uniquely qualified to address Safety Recommendation A-11-52 with a 60-year history of pilot safety education.

Since 1950, the GA accident rate has decreased by 90 percent – due in large part to our safety education efforts. The Foundation began presenting live safety seminars in the 1970s and continues as the leader in this area with more than 175 free national seminars, reaching over 40,000 pilots annually. In the late 1990s the Foundation brought the innovation of *internet-based training* and education directly to the pilot community, and in 2011 400,000 course completions are expected via internet-based education. Other Air Safety Institute pilot education includes flight instructor renewal clinics, accident analysis reports, and webinars. All totaled pilots used ASI products 1,908,213 times in 2010 for information and education related to safety.

In response to the Safety Recommendation A-11-52, the Air Safety Institute will produce a safety video to educate pilots about briefing passengers on emergency

communication and survival equipment. This should increase passenger survival if ever involved in a general aviation accident. It will include knowing basic VHF radio operation, personal locator beacon operation, the use of cell phones and the cockpit ELT switch. Additionally, egress procedures and how to locate survival gear are essential items for passengers to understand. A generic printable checklist is under consideration for use in the aircraft.

The eight minute video is expected to launch in September 2011 and will be hosted on the AOPA website and other venues. Pilots will be informed through various outreach methods, such as e-newsletters, print magazines, and e-mail. The communication will reach all 400,000 AOPA members and the video will be open to all pilots.

We welcome any additional thoughts NTSB staff may have as we prepare this critical safety information and thank you for the opportunity to further our joint objectives.

Respectfully,



Bruce Landsberg  
President, AOPA Foundation

*Look forward to working  
with your team on this.*