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December 12, 2011

Mr. Gary Norek  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
Docket Operations, M-30  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140  
Washington, DC 20590

Re: FAA Docket No. FAA-2011-1193, Airspace Docket No. 11-ANM-14: Proposed Establishment of Low Altitude Area Navigation Routes between Rapid City, SD and Gillette, WY

Mr. Norek:

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) proposal to establish a Low Altitude Area Navigation Route (RNAV) between Rapid City, SD and Gillette, WY. AOPA appreciates and supports this FAA proposal.

AOPA is very pleased the FAA is following through with a commitment to establish and chart "T" routes and is looking forward to working with the FAA to expand the development to additional areas within the National Airspace System, particularly in congested terminal airspace. AOPA has been advocating for the establishment of charted RNAV airways as part of the broad efforts to move forward with benefits-driven transition to RNAV.

If established, the proposed T-route will provide pilots safer and more efficient route options when transiting the area. With the ability to fly at lower altitudes, pilots will be able to safely avoid icing conditions while maintaining course guidance.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed establishment of this RNAV T-route.

Sincerely,

Tom Kramer  
Manager  
Airspace and Modernization