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February 28, 2012

Mr. P. Clifford Burnette, Jr.
Director, Airport Services Division
Virginia Department of Aviation
5702 Gulfstream Road
Richmond, Virginia 23250-2422

Dear Mr. Burnette:

On behalf of the 10,728 members of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association in Virginia and the rest of our 400,000 members nationwide, I am writing to express our thanks and gratitude for you and your staff making a critical presentation to the Virginia Aviation Board on February 16, 2012 concerning funding for airport improvement projects in the Commonwealth.

Your presentation examined the various scenarios for funding the new 10% share of Federal Aviation Administration Airport Improvement Program projects. Because it showed the necessity of increasing the Commonwealth's share of the funding, the Board took the incredible step of increasing their share of the local funding match to 8% from 3%. Additionally, you and your staff were able to provide timely accurate information on current temporary authorization funding increases necessary at the 8% level that resulted in the Board authorizing an additional \$1.78 million dollars in funding. This relieves the pressure on airport sponsors, especially those in smaller communities, allowing them to maintain their support for their airport with a 2% match during these tough economic times.

Thanks again to you and your staff for this investment in Virginia's airports, and in the Commonwealth's future. It is a pleasure working with aviation professionals such as you.

Sincerely,

John L. Collins
Manager
Airport Policy

cc:

Mr. R. N. Harrington, Manager, Planning and Environmental Section, DOAV
Mr. J. Michael Swain, Manager, Engineering Section, DOAV
Mr. Randall P. Burdette, Director of Aviation, DOAV