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October 22, 2018

Mr. Peter Van Scoyoc, Supervisor  
Town of East Hampton  
159 Pantigo Rd.  
East Hampton, NY 11937

**RE: Airport Safety Enhancement, Taxiway A Connector.**

Dear Supervisor Van Scoyoc;

The Aircraft Owner and Pilots Association (AOPA) is the world's largest aviation membership organization made up of 330,000 pilots, aircraft owners and general aviation enthusiasts including nearly 11,000 in the State of New York. We are writing to encourage the Town Board to approve the completion of the Taxiway A connector at the East Hampton Airport (HTO). It is our understanding that some members of the Town Board recently decided that the project would not move forward, and the Town has abandoned completing its construction.

In 2016, engineering drawings for this Taxiway A connection were completed and approved by the Town Board. This connection is a necessary component on a project that would allow both ends of Taxiway A to be connected in the middle of the airport. This connector would be just under 800 feet in length.

According to the recently retired Air Traffic Control Tower Manager, completion of the connector would allow for a more efficient movement of aircraft from the runway to the terminal ramp areas. Additionally, the added efficiency according to the tower manager, would very likely lead to reduced aircraft taxi times and reduced hold times in the air.

We understand that the town has undertaken a Federal Aviation Regulation (FAR) Part 161 noise study, a requirement that must be completed prior to the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) potential sanctioning of noise abatement procedures being implemented at HTO. In our significant experience in this area, it is our belief that completion of this previously planned taxiway connector would have no impacts on the results of the Part 161 since it is not an airport expansion project but rather a safety and efficiency project.

It is our understanding that in December 2017, the cost of construction for this project was approved and bonded in the amount of \$2,100,000 by the previous Town Board. Therefore, funding for the project shouldn't be an issue. However, the longer the project is delayed, the costlier the project will become and the greater the negative impact will be on other existing infrastructure at the airport.

Mr. Scoyoc  
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We appreciate your taking into consideration our views on this project and encourage the Town Board to move forward on the completion of this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sean M. Collins", is centered within a light gray rectangular box.

Sean M. Collins, AOPA  
Eastern Regional Manager