



50 F St. NW, Suite 750
Washington, D.C. 20001

T. 202-737-7950
F. 202-273-7951

www.aopa.org

June 26, 2019

Commissioner Cestra Butner, President
Oakland Board of Port Commissioners
530 Water Street
Oakland, CA 94607

Dear Commissioner Butner,

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) is a membership organization comprised of nearly 330,000 aircraft owners, pilots, and people who appreciate the value of general aviation in their communities. Today I am writing to urge the Board of Port Commissioners to act on the recommendation of the Port staff to waive landing fees for flight school operations.

As noted in the agenda report for the June 27 Board meeting, flight schools provide a valuable service to the aviation industry. As is typical for flight schools across the United States, the flight school at OAK already pays rent and fuel flowage fees on thousands of gallons of fuel each year to the Port. Since a flight school is already paying the airport sponsor for use of the airport, it is standard practice to exempt flight schools from any landing fees. Collection of a \$47.18 landing fee for every operation would quickly drive any flight school out of business.

The agenda report states “the waiver of these landing fees will have no impact on the FY2019-20 Operating Budget, or prior or future budgets.” But if the flight school closes due to new landing fees, there would be a negative impact on the budget since the Port will then lose the flight school as a tenant and lose their fuel flowage fee revenue.

Again, AOPA urges the Board of Port Commissioners to act on the recommendation of the Port staff to waive landing fees for flight school operations. Thank you for your attention to this important matter. If I may be of further assistance, I may be reached at 202-609-9702 or adam.williams@aopa.org.

Sincerely,

Adam Williams
Manager, Airport Policy