



MARK R. BAKER
President and CEO

July 17, 2024

Philip Edward "Brave" Davis, Prime Minister
The Bahamas
2nd Floor, Trade Winds Building,
Bay St, Nassau N.P, The Bahamas
P.O. Box N-7147
Nassau, N.P., The Bahamas

Dear Prime Minister Davis,

I write today to urge you to intervene and rescind the imposition of new and egregious fees being imposed by the Bahamian government on private pilots flying to and from the Bahamas. In addition, the Department of Customs' Click2Clear program that was put on hold a few years ago remains confusing and cumbersome and will needlessly complicate the process for traveling to your country if implemented in its current form.

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA), representing hundreds of thousands of private pilots, has for many years promoted the Bahamas as a destination and has worked closely and effectively with your Tourism Department led by Mr. Greg Rolle. AOPA also stepped up recently and supported travel to the Bahamas when the United States government issued a travel advisory.

We believe recent actions by Bahamian authorities with respect to these fees will have a negative impact on a sector of the tourism industry that has contributed heavily to the economy of the Bahamas. We remain hopeful that the appreciation for the value of General Aviation tourism is not in question.

General Aviation tourism doesn't need massive airport improvements similar to those that the airlines request or require. While we understand some fees are necessary, we also believe private pilots shouldn't have fees imposed on them that are twice as much as those imposed on commercial aircraft.

As you know, visitors to the Bahamas arriving by private airplanes are more than double those arriving by private boats and cruise ships. With these new aviation fees, along with a complicated entry and departure Customs process and the impending privatization of airports, there is no question that the Bahamas will lose its competitive advantage as a key destination for private pilots flying to the Caribbean.

I look forward to working with you to resolve these matters and to help ensure our relationship with the Bahamas and mutual support for General Aviation remains strong and robust.

Regards,