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October 15, 2025

Supervisor Gregg Horr
Town of North Dansville
14 Clara Barton Street
North Dansville, NY 14437

TRANSMITTED BY ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION

Email: supervisor@northdansville.org

Re: LMC Crane Obstructions / Closure of the Dansville Municipal Airport

Supervisor Horr and members of the North Dansville Town Board,

We write this letter to express our concerns regarding the Town Board's failure to resolve airspace obstructions and its interest in permanently closing the Dansville Municipal Airport (DSV). My name is Sean Collins, and I am the Eastern Regional Manager for the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA). We are the world's largest aviation membership organization representing the general aviation interests of more than 300,000 aircraft owners and pilots across the country, including nearly 9,800 across the state of New York.

DSV is a regional transportation asset that provides vital access to national and international networks and the ability to connect people and businesses with goods and services, including healthcare. It serves at the forefront of national preparedness, as a staging point during manmade and natural disasters, and can serve as a rallying point in times of national crisis. According to the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) Aviation Division, DSV is credited with supporting 12 jobs, earning nearly \$500,000 in income, and generating more than \$1 million in annual economic impact, including \$83,774 in total state and local tax revenue in 2022.

Last year, LMC Industries constructed cranes within the immediate approach and flight path to the runway without applying for a zoning permit and without notifying the FAA of the aviation safety hazard. The town's subsequent failure to permanently resolve these obstructions is a violation of grant assurance 20 for failing hazard removal and mitigation, as well as grant assurance 21 for failing to ensure compatible land use within the immediate vicinity of the airport. AOPA is aware that LMC previously held the management contract for the airport and, therefore, should have been aware of the risks associated with placing obstructions within the approach to the runway, including the obligation to comply with the FAA's airspace evaluation process. These actions suggest LMC shows a willful disregard for rules, as well as public safety. By creating an unacceptable risk to aviation, which the town of North Danville has now allowed to persist for well over a year, LMC has created potential liability for the town.

At the recent Town Board meeting, it was suggested that the town consider closing the airport. The acceptance of federal airport improvement (AIP) grants obligates airport sponsors (the town of North Dansville) to keep the airport open for 20 years following the acceptance of each new grant. DSV has accepted more than \$3.5 million in federal AIP grants over the last 20 years, including two disbursements totaling approximately \$95,000 for the acquisition of airport land. While traditional AIP grants impose the 20-year obligation, **grants used for the acquisition of land are obligated in perpetuity**. Therefore, North Dansville cannot close the airport.

Even if DSV had not accepted a land grant, the FAA's guidance for seeking a release from grant obligations goes on to highlight:

The non-aviation interest of the sponsor or the local community does not constitute an airport benefit that can be considered in justifying a release and disposal.

AOPA is not aware of a single example where the FAA has prematurely released an active publicly owned airport from its grant obligations. Armed with the knowledge that the FAA will not consider the non-aviation interests of the community in justifying a release, AOPA recommends that North Dansville instead seek to maximize the economic impact potential of the airport. Ultimately, the hazard to public safety and associated liability will persist until the town upholds its obligations. It is therefore of critical importance that North Dansville establishes and enforces proper zoning regulations to protect the airport and the surrounding community from incompatible land uses.

If you have questions or require additional information, please contact me directly on 301-695-2090 or sean.collins@aopa.org.

Sincerely,



Sean M. Collins, AOPA
Eastern Regional Manager

Cc

Mr. Rick Lafford
Airport Manager
Dansville Municipal Airport

Mr. Lowell E. Lingo
Aviation Director
NYSDOT