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Joint Committee on Revenue
24 Beacon Street
Senate Room 511-C / House Room 34
Boston, MA 02133

TRANSMITTED BY ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION

Via: Anestis.Kalaitzidis@mahouse.gov

RE: AOPA Support H.3125; an act relative to privately owned public use airport real estate taxes.

Honorable Chairs Senator Eldridge, Representative Madaro, and members of the Revenue Committee,

The Aircraft Owners & Pilots Association (AOPA) is 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 5,000 from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. On behalf of these members, **AOPA supports House Bill 3125, an act relative to privately owned public use airport real estate taxes.**

Across the United States, there are approximately 20,000 recognized landing facilities (airports, airfields, helipads, and seaplane bases). Of these, fewer than 5,200 are open for public use. In Massachusetts, 11 (nearly 30%) of the state's 37 public-use airports are privately owned. Unlike their municipal counterparts, these privately owned airports are generally precluded from access to federal airport improvement.

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) has designated these airports as vital components of the state's system of airports and as catalysts for economic activity while promoting recreation, education, and safety. While these niche airports tend to be smaller in stature than their municipal counterparts, these community airports offer a model for success. According to a 2019 MassDOT statewide airport economic impact study, Massachusetts' private-public airports support 374 jobs, \$12.7 million in payroll, and pump more than \$40 million in economic activity into their local communities.

As access to air transportation is the most obvious benefit of any airport, these transportation assets allow their communities to attract other businesses and development. They serve as rallying locations for community preparedness, emergency services like state police and search and rescue, and provide access for medical evacuation. As transportation assets, it is easy to take for granted that at these 11 privately-owned airports, private lands are continuously made available for the public's benefit. For these reasons, **AOPA supports House Bill 3125.**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important issue. We welcome the opportunity to serve this Committee as a resource. I can be reached directly at (301) 695-2090 or by email at sean.collins@aopa.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Collins", is centered on a light-colored rectangular background.

Sean M. Collins, AOPA
Eastern Regional Manager