



AIRCRAFT OWNERS AND PILOTS ASSOCIATION

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**Phil Boyer**

President

March 20, 2007

The Honorable Bill Richardson  
Governor  
State of New Mexico  
490 Old Santa Fe Trail  
Room 400  
Santa Fe, NM 87501

**Re: Request for signature on SB222/HB205**

Dear Governor Richardson:

I am writing you on behalf of the more than 410,000 pilots nationwide – including 3,100 in New Mexico – that are members of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) urging you to sign Senate Bill 222 and House Bill 205. These identical bills will provide additional funding from the general fund to the State Aviation Fund to advance New Mexico's aviation infrastructure. One of the most important issues facing the general aviation industry today is the adequate development and maintenance of our airport infrastructure.

General aviation is a vital element of New Mexico's economy. Each year, general aviation activity in your great state produces \$3.2 billion in economic activity, employs over 49,000 state residents, and adds \$1.0 billion in payroll. Airports also provide vital services to non-aviation entities throughout New Mexico including individuals, families, churches, hospitals, law enforcement and numerous small businesses. From transporting people who need specialized medical care but are not served by commercial flights, to transporting an organ for donation, to disaster relief to isolated areas, general aviation meets vital health and public safety needs.

The Honorable Bill Richardson

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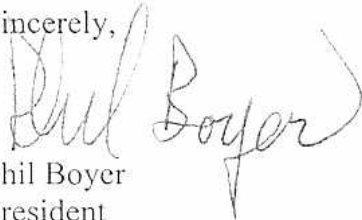
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I applaud New Mexico's efforts in committing to bring aviation businesses to the state, and the additional revenues to the State Aviation Fund. This legislation will provide more enhancements to the state's air transportation system and in turn bring additional positive benefit to the state's economy.

SB222 and HB205 allow funds to be used toward planning, program administration, construction, equipment, materials and maintenance for airports, navigation aids and related facilities. Additionally, these new funds will allow the state to better leverage federal matching dollars for continued enhancement of New Mexico's air transportation system.

AOPA members and I appreciate your consideration of this important legislation and I hope that you will sign this legislation at your earliest convenience. Should you have any questions or require additional information from AOPA, please do not hesitate to contact me personally.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Phil Boyer". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

Phil Boyer  
President