



AIRCRAFT OWNERS AND PILOTS ASSOCIATION

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April 18, 2007

Mr. Kevin Dohm
Chairman
Chicago Executive Airport
Board of Directors
1020 S Plant Road
Wheeling, IL 60090

Re: Resolution 07-013

Dear Chairman Dohm:

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) represents the general aviation interests of more than 411,000 members, over two-thirds of the nation's pilots. Nearly 14,000 of our members live in the state of Illinois. On behalf of our membership, AOPA is committed to ensuring the future viability and development of general aviation airports and their facilities as part of a national transportation system.

It has come to our attention that the Board of Directors will vote this evening on Resolution 07-013 recommending the permanent closure of runway 6/24 at Chicago Executive Airport (PWK). This resolution in question is noted as agenda item IX under Old Business for tonight's agenda.

AOPA is strongly opposed to approval of Resolution 07-013. It is our belief that, while consideration of this resolution may be included as an item of old business, there has been little information passed to the local aviation community; no real and meaningful open public debate on the topic as a Public Hearing Agenda item and inadequate research completed to determine the actual demand for the use of this runway by light aircraft at times when the wind comes from the southwest – predominately in the summer months.

It is our request that formal action on the aforementioned resolution be deferred pending public hearings, which are adequately noticed to the aviation community so that appropriate dialogue can ensue and that the Board of Directors may make an informed decision and having reviewed and considered all available information prior to making that decision. We all know that once a runway is gone, it will not be rebuilt. Runway 6/24 serves an important segment of your based tenants with over 190 based single-engine aircraft at PWK. And while we can surely understand the Board's desire to explore options for the airport and improve overall safety at the airport, so too it is of the utmost importance to fully air all sides of an issue.

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In closing, AOPA requests that the Board defer action on Resolution 07-013 and schedule a series of public hearings - duly noticed – so that all interested parties in this debate may have the opportunity to present their opinions and factual information relating to the impacts of the permanent closure of Runway 6/24.

It was not very long ago that AOPA's President Phil Boyer and I were at this great general aviation airport where Phil talked with your Board about the value and importance of general aviation airports, and of those airports serving the needs of all airport users. Closing Runway 6/24 will not serve those who need it most – light single-engine aircraft.

We appreciate your considering our comments on this most urgent matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Dunn", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bill Dunn
Vice President
Airports

cc: Phil Boyer
Dennis Rouleau
Bill Blake
ILDOT
FAA Great Lakes Airports Division