



AIRCRAFT OWNERS AND PILOTS ASSOCIATION

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Phil Boyer
President

November 16, 2007

The Honorable Jon Corzine
State of New Jersey
Office of the Governor
PO Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Governor Corzine:

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) represents the general aviation interests of 414,000 members, more than two-thirds of the nation's pilots – including 8,970 in the state of New Jersey. On behalf of our membership, AOPA is committed to ensuring the safety, future viability and development of general aviation airports and their facilities as part of a national transportation system.

I write to you today about a critical public safety matter and the future of Somerset Airport, a privately owned, public use airport located in Bedminster. Somerset Airport is an important part of New Jersey's aviation infrastructure, having been in operation since 1946.

Unfortunately, a key public safety operation at Somerset Airport is being threatened. A group of individuals have launched court challenges to prevent the permanent basing of New Jersey's Northstar Medevac helicopter at Somerset. The Medevac unit was relocated from University Hospital in Newark to Somerset to provide better response time to the people of the western part of the state. As you can understand, a quick response by a Medevac helicopter can make a crucial difference in saving lives.

In September 2007, the New Jersey's Supreme Court denied a request to hear arguments to overturn a lower court judge's ruling that found the helicopter was a "permitted use" at the airport. While other challenges remain, it seems clear that the people of New Jersey are best served by basing this aircraft where it can quickly and efficiently serve its entire region.

I urge you as Governor to immediately take action to ensure that the Northstar Medevac helicopter remain at Somerset. The key to this is the construction of appropriate facilities that will allow the vital public safety and first responder capability that is critical to public health and safety.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions, or would like additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Phil Boyer