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October 26, 2009

Mr. Jonathon Currier, Chair
Nashua City Zoning Board of Adjustment
City Hall
229 Main Street
Nashua, NH 03061

Dear Mr. Currier:

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) represents the general aviation interests of 416,000 members, more than two-thirds of the nation's pilots – including 2,738 of our members in the state of New Hampshire. 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.

One of the greatest threats to the continued viability and utility of our airports is residential encroachment. It is for that reason that we must oppose agenda item 6 – 45 Pine Hill Road Real Estate Development, LLC's request for a use variance that would allow 52 multi-family dwellings within 3,800 feet of the end of Runway 14/32 at Boire Field (ASH). While there is significant residential development already in place, the addition of 52 more families directly under the approach and departure path at an active general aviation airport is a poor application of public policy.

AOPA respectfully requests that the Board not grant the variance in order to better protect both the airport and the citizenry. As a possible solution we recommend rezoning the property to a more compatible land use such as airport industrial, which would provide a lower density populace under the approaches.

Thank you for your consideration of our position on this issue. If we can be of further assistance please contact us at 301-695-2200.

Sincerely,

John L. Collins
Manager
Airport Policy

cc:
Mr. Roy Rankin, Manager, Boire Field
Mr. Graham Smith, AOPA Airport Support Network Volunteer for Boire Field