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June 25, 2010

Mr. Karl Peterjohn, Chair  
Sedgwick County Board of County Commissioners  
525 North Main, Suite 320  
Wichita, KS 67203

Re: VAC 2010-00012 – County request to vacate a portion of a section line road, generally described as the west 1,255.84 feet of 71<sup>st</sup> Street South, beginning at its intersection with 143<sup>rd</sup> Street East.

Dear Chairman Peterjohn:

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) represents the general aviation interests of 415,000 members, more than two-thirds of the nation's pilots – including 5,427 of our members in the state of Kansas. 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.

We are writing to the Board at the request of our members who utilize Cook Airfield Inc. in Derby in support of the above referenced vacation request. It is our understanding that by vacating this portion of 71<sup>st</sup> Street South the airport will be able to make improvements to the existing runway that will enhance the safety of aircraft using the airport and provide an impetus for developing new aviation related businesses at the airport that will increase the economic impact to the community.

Cook Airfield is a growing and viable general aviation airport. Since the current owners bought the airport seven years ago the number of based aircraft has more than doubled and there is significant interest in being able to provide additional aviation services at the field such as a maintenance facility. In an economic climate such as we have today it is refreshing to see a general aviation airport that is successful. AOPA strongly encourages the Board of County Commissioners to support that enterprise and grant the request to vacate.

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

Sincerely,

John L. Collins  
Manager  
Airport Policy