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December 7, 2010

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

Re: Agenda Item E - ZON2010-00040 AND CON2010-00038

Dear Chairman Peterjohn:

In June of this year the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) wrote the Sedgwick County Board of County Commissioners in support of a request before you at that time to vacate a portion of 71<sup>st</sup> Street South in order to facilitate the development of Cook Airfield. The Board voted unanimously to approve that zone change and conditional use request, vacating that portion of the road.

It is our understanding that since then the Metropolitan Area Planning Agency (MPAC) determined that two parties were not properly noticed. In their subsequent vote on the zone change and conditional use request the MPAC voted to approve the zone change and deny the conditional use request. Now it is back before your Board with no significant changes to the original request, yet the staff recommendation is to approve the zone change and deny the conditional use request. We would urge the Board to allow the conditional use request as well as the zoning so that Cook Airfield may continue to develop into a strong, vibrant general aviation airport. Your County is at the center of the nation's general aviation industry, with numerous aviation businesses and aircraft manufacturers, and six public-use airports including Cook Airfield providing valuable economic impact. Your support for encouraging the very activities that make this industry necessary is critical, and an important symbol for the aviation community. It would be a shame to retreat from the support you gave this proposal in June.

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