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March 19, 2012

George Tinker, Chair
Oregon State Marine Board
PO Box 14145
435 Commercial St. NE, #400
Salem, OR 97309-5065

RE: Oregon Administrative Rules 250-020-0221 and 250-030-0030

Dear Mr. Tinker:

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) is a not-for-profit membership organization that represents the general aviation interests of over 400,000 members nationwide, including over 6,200 in Oregon. Since 1939, AOPA has been committed to ensuring the safety, future viability, and development of general aviation airports and their facilities as a part of our national transportation system, including floatplane operations.

We understand that at its April 10, 2012 meeting, the Oregon State Marine Board (OSMB) will reconsider its January, 2010 adoption of Oregon Administrative Rules 250-020-0221 and 250-030-0030, which banned the use of internal combustion motors on Waldo Lake, including floatplanes. We write on behalf of our Oregon members to strongly support the reinstatement of floatplane operations on Waldo Lake.

In the Pacific Northwest, floatplanes are an important mode of transportation, and the availability of water landing facilities such as Waldo Lake are key to maintaining the safety and efficiency of floatplane operations in the region. Floatplane operations on Waldo Lake have been minimal, and have had negligible impact on the environment, surrounding community or other lake users, while providing a positive economic impact on Oregon aviation. Indeed, many other public entities, including the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service have recognized the important of floatplane operations, and have safely accommodated them within their boundaries. We strongly encourage the OSMB to do the same, and reinstate floatplane operations on Waldo Lake.

If you have any questions, please contact me or David Ulane our Northwest Mountain Regional Manager at (301)695-2094.

Sincerely,

Gregory Pecoraro
Vice President
Airports and State Advocacy

cc: Bill Wainright, Columbia Scaplane Pilots Association