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November 10, 2014

Mr. Charles Evans
Projects Manager
GDOT Aviation Programs
204 North Highway 301
Jesup, GA 21546

Dear Mr. Evans:

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) is the world's largest aviation organization, representing the general aviation interests of pilots and aircraft owners, including 8,920 of our members in the state of Georgia. 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.

It is for that reason that I am writing to you to lend AOPA's support for an upcoming fuel farm project at the Berrien County Airport and to encourage your office to provide the funding to complete this improvement project. It is our understanding after speaking with local AOPA members that at some point in the past the airport had fueling facilities but it does not have them now. As you know, fuel services can be a good source of airport revenue and add to the competitiveness of an airport in a region.

Our members tell us that currently, companies with local operations either fly in, drop off personnel and then go to another airport to fuel and wait to pick them up or they fly to a nearby airport and arrange rental cars to get them to their business locations. With investment in fueling facilities and a terminal building, transient aircraft will have more incentive to come to Berrien County instead of flying elsewhere; increasing the economic impact to the local community and possibly raise it closer to \$1 million dollars from the last reported \$682,200.

We respectfully request that the Department grant the funds for this fuel farm project so that Berrien County Airport can continue to improve its viability and service to the region. Thank you for your consideration of our views on this matter. If we can be of further assistance please contact me at 301-695-2119.

Sincerely,

John L. Collins
Manager
Airport Policy