

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3704

June 6, 2002

The Honorable Jane Garvey
Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20591

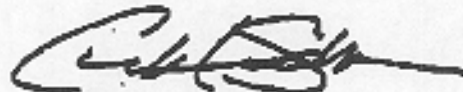
Dear Administrator Garvey:

I am writing to you in support of a recent petition from the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) which requests the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) issue a direct final rule to require that pilots carry government issued photo identification (such as a driver's license, passport or military ID) with them when piloting an aircraft. I would like to recommend prompt action by the FAA on this petition for rulemaking.

As a member of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and a cosponsor of the Aviation Security Act (PL 107-71), I believe AOPA's petition would provide a good interim step in achieving this goal. One of the central issues in addressing general aviation (GA) security is the ability to immediately identify general aviation pilots. This petition is an inexpensive and simple security enhancement that can be implemented immediately by requiring pilots to carry picture identification, in addition to their pilot and medical certificates, with them when flying.

Aviation is an integral part of Oregon's transportation system with 100 public use airports, 30 of which are state-owned, and more than 261 private airstrips. With more than 5,926 pilots in Oregon who fly and/or own GA aircraft in my state, I understand the importance of making GA pilot identification a secure procedure. I urge you to approve AOPA's requested change—it is a commonsense approach to addressing the security needs at our GA airports.

Sincerely,



Gordon H. Smith
United States Senate