



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

800 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20591

MAR 21 2003

cc: Mel
Phil
Andy

Mr. Andrew V. Cebula
Senior Vice President
AOPA
421 Aviation Way
Frederick, MD 21701-4798

Dear Mr. Cebula:

This is in response to the letter from the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) regarding the agency's competitive sourcing study of the Automated Flight Service Station (AFSS) program, under the auspices of the OMB Circular A-76. It was my pleasure to meet with you on March 12, 2003 to discuss AOPA's position related to this study.

In your letter and during our meeting, AOPA requested an opportunity to participate in the establishment of the Performance Work Statement (PWS) that will be used in the competitive sourcing study. It is our understanding that AOPA believes that its unique position representing thousands of general aviation users of FSS services should give it a key role in the PWS effort. AOPA has also indicated that it has no interest in participating as a potential private sector vendor of AFSS services.

The FAA agrees that AOPA is an important stakeholder in this process. As I indicated in our meeting, one of my goals is to ensure that the FSS A-76 process accurately reflects the needs of the users and the government. We agree that this could be more effectively accomplished through the participation of critical stakeholders. To this end, FAA welcomes AOPA's participation in the review phase of the PWS effort.

We believe it would be appropriate for members of our PWS team to meet with representative(s) from AOPA for discussion and comments at the conclusion of our functional scoping phase (about half way through the effort), as well as, following completion of the draft statement. In addition, the FAA is following up on your suggestion that MITRE host periodic meetings with AFSS stakeholders, including AOPA, to keep them informed of our progress and discuss any of their concerns. Through this two pronged approach, AOPA would have the opportunity to be involved in both the development and review phases of the PWS creation. AOPA personnel who do participate will be asked to execute standard conflict of interest and non-disclosure agreements.

Thank you for your interest in the AFSS competitive sourcing study. We look forward to working together on the PWS effort.

Sincerely,



Joann Kansier
Program Director, Office of
Competitive Sourcing
Acquisition