



A RESOLUTION CONCERNING MEIGS FIELD IN CHICAGO

A Resolution supporting the efforts of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association's (AOPA), an organization promoting the interests of general aviation and pilots, to reopen Chicago's Merrill C. Meigs Field and condemning Mayor Richard M. Daley for his act of domestic terrorism on March 31, 2003.

Whereas, Meigs Field was destroyed on March 31, 2003 by Mayor Daley in an effort to close the airport for his own personal reasons but claiming homeland security as an excuse; and

Whereas, Meigs Field plays a major role within the national aviation system. The 3,900 foot runway at Meigs provided general aviation operators with an ideal location to access the heart of Chicago. In addition to being an integral part of the city's disaster relief plan and providing medical airlift transportation needs, the federal government listed Meigs in the National Plan of Integrated Airport System (NPIAS), identifying its important role within the national air transportation system; and

Whereas, the destruction of Meigs Field might have an impact on future federal funding for other Chicago projects by blocking federal funds from being used to replace the airport with a park; and

Whereas, the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission stands behind AOPA's efforts to restore and reopen Meigs Field by supporting their decision to ask the Department of Homeland Security to issue an order prohibiting restrictions or closures of public airports on the basis of a security claim without its concurrence and a specific threat; by supporting their decision to seek emergency legislation to allow the State of Illinois to purchase Meigs from Chicago; and by supporting their decision to oppose any attempt by the city of Chicago to use federal or state funds for the \$27-million park that is slated to replace Meigs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

THAT this resolution from the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission to support AOPA's efforts to reopen Merrill C. Meigs Field in Chicago, Illinois be approved this 15th day of May, 2003.

Signed,

Commission Chairman,
W.D. "Bill" Kendrick

Commission Director,
Victor N. Bird