



**AIRCRAFT OWNERS AND PILOTS ASSOCIATION**

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April 14, 2004

The Honorable James H. "Jim" Ritchie  
Senate Committee on Transportation  
Gressette Bldg.  
P.O. Box 142  
Columbia, SC 29202

Re: House Bill 4537 (Senate Bill 822)

Dear Senator Ritchie:

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) is the world's largest aviation association representing more than 400,000 members nationwide and 4,480 members in South Carolina.

We understand you will be considering proposed amendments to House Bill 4537. As we previously expressed to the Senate Transportation Committee, AOPA supports many of the principles embodied in House Bill 4537, specifically the dedication of revenues derived from general aviation turbine fuel.

AOPA is extremely pleased that House Bill 4537 will infuse the tax on general aviation jet fuel to the South Carolina Aeronautics fund. The money generated from the tax on aviation services *should* be used for the enhancement and preservation of the aviation system. AOPA applauds this initiative.

When considering amendments to House Bill 4537, AOPA hopes you will preserve the integrity of the bill and this critical funding provision.

Sincerely,

Roger Cohen  
Vice President  
Regional Affairs