




**AIRCRAFT OWNERS AND PILOTS ASSOCIATION**

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October 21, 2005

Mr. Wayne Heibeck, Manager  
Federal Aviation Administration  
Harrisburg Airport District Office  
3905 Hartzdale Drive, Suite 508  
Camp Hill, PA 17011

Dear Mr. Heibeck:

  
For the past few years, we have heard a number of rumors regarding the continued operation of the Gettysburg Airport and Travel Center (W05), a privately owned, public use general aviation airport in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. We've heard from members the airport was for sale, and then it was not for sale. We've heard the owner was planning significant improvements and the property would not be sold. As reported by the Evening Sun on September 30, 2005, the airport is listed for sale with an asking price of \$2.3 million.

AOPA believes Gettysburg Airport is an important general aviation airport serving this historic and growing geographic area. Additionally, this airport is not directly adversely impacted like so many other airports in the Maryland area when the Camp David restricted area, P-40, expands while President Bush is in residence.

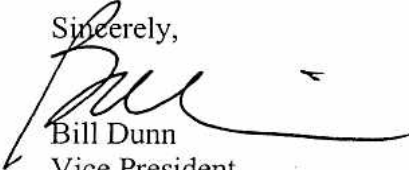
As you know, when a privately owned airport is put up for sale, there are no guarantees that the buyer will choose to continue operating the airport as an airport. In fact, most developers who acquire privately owned airports opt to construct homes, shopping centers or industrial complexes in order to maximize their investment. We believe Gettysburg Airport should be preserved as a public use airport not only for our 14,000 Pennsylvania members, but also because of its value to all U.S. pilots.

While Gettysburg Airport is by no means a large general aviation facility, under the public sponsorship and operation, we believe the airport could be self-sustaining and a significant economic engine to the local economy.

AOPA would like to partner with your office and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to identify a public sponsor willing to acquire the Gettysburg Airport from its private owner in order to assure that the airport continues to serve general aviation needs in Adams and surrounding counties.

We hope you share our belief that Gettysburg Airport should be saved from the developers. Please let me know what we can do to assist the FAA in preserving this airport in historic Gettysburg.

Sincerely,

  
Bill Dunn  
Vice President  
Airports