



AIRCRAFT OWNERS AND PILOTS ASSOCIATION

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June 17, 2005

Senator Paul A. Sarlo
Chairman, Legislative Oversight Committee
Fleet Bank Building
207 Hackensack St., 2nd Floor
Wood-Ridge, NJ 07075

Dear Chairman Sarlo:

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) represents more than 400,000 pilots and aircraft owners -- over two-thirds of the nation's pilots—including some 10,000 New Jersey residents of the more than 50,000 members in the Tri-State Region. Airports are the critical part of the national air transportation system that link communities across the country together as a vital element of national, state and local economies.

The Teterboro Airport is a cornerstone of the National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems and is a vital access point for individuals traveling to the New York-New Jersey Metropolitan area. In this regard, we would urge that no action be taken that would adversely affect the ability of this airport to provide this important air transportation function to New Jersey and the nation.

As you recognize, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has the responsibility to oversee the safety of the aviation system. The FAA is charged with ensuring safety through developing and enforcing regulations of pilots, the aircraft they fly and the airports at which they operate. This federally regulated system has provided the nation with an exceptionally safe and efficient air transportation network, AOPA submits that the FAA should be relied upon as the primary agency to address the safety of Teterboro Airport.

As the New Jersey General Assembly reviews issues at Teterboro Airport, AOPA strongly encourages the Committee to also recognize the role the airport serves in the area transportation system and its critical role in the economic and social health of New Jersey communities and the entire region. In this regard, we stand ready to assist you in service to the state and our member pilots.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Roger Cohen
VP-Regional Affairs