



AIRCRAFT OWNERS AND PILOTS ASSOCIATION  
421 Aviation Way • Frederick, Maryland 21701-4798  
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**Phil Boyer**

President

January 5, 2006

The Honorable Michael Crapo  
United States Senate  
239 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

*Mike*  
Dear Senator Crapo:

On behalf of the more than 407,000 members of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA), thank you for your leadership in introducing the Backcountry Landing Strip Access Act (S. 2108). I will have the opportunity to highlight your leadership on this issue when I meet with pilots next month in an AOPA Pilot Town Meeting being held in Boise on February 23.

As you and I have discussed on several occasions in meetings in your office, AOPA strongly supports your legislation that will guarantee to general aviation aircraft continued access to Federal land and the airspace over Federal land, and ensure backcountry-landing sites are maintained and operational.

These unique landing facilities in our national airports system are vital. Backcountry airstrips serve essential roles in firefighting, disaster relief, search and rescue, forest and ecological management, research, and aerial mapping. In addition, these airstrips provide a vital safety function as emergency landing areas.

Unfortunately, many Federal land management agencies persist in trying to close or restrict access to backcountry airstrips. Without a strong national policy, access to these valuable assets continues to be threatened. Establishment of a national policy under S. 2108 will provide the necessary guidance and direction to preserve general aviation's access to Federal land.

AOPA thanks you for your leadership on this important matter. We are looking forward to working with you and members of your staff to obtain support for the legislation and its passage and enactment into law.

Sincerely,

Phil Boyer  
President



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President

January 5, 2006

The Honorable Larry Craig  
United States Senate  
520 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Craig

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