



AIRCRAFT OWNERS AND PILOTS ASSOCIATION

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January 31, 2006

Honorable Steven M. Costantino
Chairman, Finance Committee
Rhode Island House of Representatives
120 Courtland Street
Providence, RI 02909

Re: **Support for House Bill 6846 (San Bento)**

Dear Chairman Costantino:

On behalf of the almost 1,000 Rhode Island members – of more than 407,000 nationwide – of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA), we are writing to express our support for House Bill 6846, which shifts the collection of aircraft registration fees from the state's tax administrator to the Rhode Island Aviation Corporation (RIAC).

This bill is particularly important to our members, since aircraft registration fees can be utilized more effectively and efficiently to directly support the airport infrastructure at the state's small, community general aviation airports. This would result in safer and better-managed airports and would ensure that fees collected from Rhode Island's pilots are used for aviation purposes.

Given the good sense this legislation makes for our members and Rhode Island's general aviation airports, we respectfully urge your committee to support HB 6846.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Should you have any questions or concerns, or should you require any further information, please contact AOPA's Northeastern Regional Representative, Craig Dotlo, at (914) 631-4051.

Sincerely,

Owen M. Sweeney, Jr.
Manager, State & Local Government Affairs

cc:

Representative William San Bento, Jr.
Representative John Shanley, Jr.
Representative Robert Jacquard
Representative Elaine Coderre
Patti Goldstein, Vice President, Public Affairs, RIAC
Craig Dotlo, AOPA Northeast Regional Representative