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AIRCRAFT OWNERS AND PILOTS ASSOCIATION

421 Aviation Way • Frederick, MD 21701-4798
Telephone (301) 695-2000 • FAX (301) 695-2375
www.aopa.org

May 1, 2003

Assemblywoman Vonne Chowning
Chairman, Transportation Committee
401 S Carson St
Carson City NV 89701-4747

Dear Ms. Chowning:

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) is a nonprofit membership association of over 390,000 pilots and aircraft owners nationwide, with nearly 4000 members in the state of Nevada. AOPA is committed to ensuring the continued growth and development of aviation and airports in Nevada and the United States.

It is our understanding that you have under consideration Senate Bill 99. This bill would create the opportunity for a specialty license plate for aviation. The Nevada State Aviation Fund was created in 2001 to help Nevada's rural airports. No funding source was dedicated at that time. Should the state minimum of 1000 orders for aviation license plates be met, the proceeds from these plates will be deposited in the State Aviation Fund.

A dedicated aviation trust fund will allow Nevada to leverage more federal dollars, an important issue when the federal share of an Airport Improvement Program (AIP) project is over 90%. In addition, enactment of Senate Bill 99 could assist airports with projects that do not qualify for federal aid by providing state dollars for projects independent from federal funding sources.

The aviation industry is one of our nation's most valuable transportation commodities and a major contributor to the growth and development of our communities; both economically and through benefits not measure in dollars and cents. According to the Nevada Department of Transportation, there are 64 airports in the state's aviation inventory. Aviation provides nearly 3,300 jobs and brings in over \$86.2 million in annual earnings.

On behalf of our Nevada members and members across the country, AOPA strongly supports Senate Bill 99. We urge you and the other committee members to support Senate Bill 99.

For more information about the benefits of general aviation, visit AOPA's general aviation website at www.GAservingAmerica.org. Should you need additional information on this or any related issue, please do not hesitate to contact me at 480-987-9165.

Sincerely,

Stacy Howard
Western Regional Representative

ASSEMBLY TRANSPORTATION

DATE: 5/1/03 ROOM: 3143 EXHIBIT D 1/1

SUBMITTED BY: Stacy Howard

Member of International Council of Aircraft Owner and Pilot Associations