



February 4, 2017

Senator Lee Beyer
Chair, Senate Committee on Business and Transportation
3040 25th Street, SE
Salem, OR 97302

Subject: SB 27 – Elimination of Oregon Pilot Registration Program & Abolishment of Aviation Search and Rescue Account

Good afternoon Chair Beyer and Committee Members.

I am Warren Hendrickson, NW Mountain Regional Manager for the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA), the world's largest general aviation organization. I serve as the organization's field representative in seven states (WA, OR, ID, MT, WY, UT, and CO), including over 5,100 members in Oregon.

AOPA supports SB 27.

The Oregon Pilot Registration program requires that statewide pilots meet an additional layer of state administration and expense – beyond federal requirements – without a commensurate increase in the level of safety or services provided by the Oregon Department of Aviation (ODA). This program also places the state in the position of monitoring the state's pilot population – a role better served by the Federal Aviation Administration – and distracts from the state's greater aviation responsibilities of addressing the needs of airports and the communities they serve. With only two states in the nation requiring such pilot registration, it is among the most highly rated areas of dissatisfaction among AOPA members in my region.

This program is also administratively burdensome to ODA and costly. Elimination of the pilot registration requirement will enable ODA staff additional time that can be put to better use serving the state's airports and other statewide aviation programs and technologies.

To offset the loss of revenue from this program (estimated to be slightly greater than \$160,000 per biennium) used for search and rescue expenses incurred by the Office of Emergency Management (OEM), I am aware that ODA has committed to provide future search and rescue funding with Aircraft Registration revenue (revenue which was increased over \$200,000 per biennium by recent 2015 legislative action) via an interagency agreement with OEM. Aviation safety via search and rescue efforts is therefore assured via this alternative funding sources and internal governmental agreements. Elimination of this program therefore results only in a positive outcome for ODA and Oregon pilots with full mitigation of any potential negative outcomes.

For these reasons, AOPA supports SB 27. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Warren Hendrickson
NW Mountain Regional Manager