



AIRCRAFT OWNERS AND PILOTS ASSOCIATION

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March 23, 2005

Honorable Edward B. Murray
Chair
Washington House of Representatives Transportation Committee
P.O. Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

Re: SSB5414 (Haugen)

Dear Chairman Murray:

With 403,000 U.S. members across the country, including some 11,600 in Washington State, the Aircraft Owners & Pilots Association (AOPA) supports SSB5414 (Haugen).

This measure not only eliminates the duplicative and costly requirement for individual pilots to register annually with the state, it also saves Washington taxpayers the expense of collecting and administering this redundant fee since the federal government already certifies and registers all pilots.

Most importantly, the funding stream proposed in SSB5414 will generate additional resources that are needed to improve the safety and efficiency of Washington's general aviation airports. In an expansive, geographically diverse state, these general aviation airports are critical to the continued economic stability and development of hundreds of Washington communities.

Again, we urge your committee to vote "aye" on SSB 5414 and we stand ready to continue to assist you in keeping flying in Washington safe, affordable and efficient. Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to contact us if you require anything additional.

Respectfully,

Roger Cohen
Vice President
Regional Affairs

cc: Mike Ferguson, AOPA NW Regional Representative
John Sibold, Director of Aviation, WA DOT