



May 22, 2008

Mr. Tim Pawlenty
Governor of Minnesota
130 State Capitol
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Governor Pawlenty:

While the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) applauds your overall record in promoting aviation safety, we were very disappointed to learn that Minnesota funding bill, HF 1812, 5th Engrossment, will be taking 15 million dollars from the State Airports Fund and transferring those critical safety dollars into the general fund.

EAA strongly recommends you use your line item veto authority and delete lines 162.30 and 164.14 through 164.17 from HF 1812. Ensure the rich safety heritage of Minnesota public airports for this generation and for tomorrow's generation of pilot's and passengers - restore the 15 million dollars into the State Airport Fund.

Minnesota has a proud heritage of providing one of the safest public airport systems in the United States. The 155 public airports located across the state serve hundreds of thousands of local pilots and businesses, visiting general aviation families, emergency medical transportation flights, and corporate operations on an annual basis. This activity has an estimated state-wide economic impact of well over 15.7 billion dollars annually.

The monies designated for the State Airport Fund (Statute 360.017) is critically needed to ensure those 155 airports are maintained to the highest possible safety standards. Transferring 15 million dollars to the general fund directly equates to a public airport in Minnesota going from a planned \$130,000 safety budget down to a \$36,000 safety budget. Any reduction in airport safety will have a direct and immediate impact on the 15.7 billion dollar economic impact these airports and their activities generate.

EAA is the world leader in recreational aviation. With an international membership of over 168,000 people in more than 112 nations, including 4,600 members in Minnesota, EAA brings together aviation enthusiasts, pilots and aircraft owners who are dedicated to *Sharing the Spirit of Aviation* by promoting the continued growth of aviation, the preservation of its history and a commitment to aviation's future. EAA programs, activities and events are known throughout the world for *Preserving* the heritage of aviation, *Promoting* access to flight, *Protecting* the right to fly, *Preparing* the future of aviation, and of our *Passion* for aviation safety and education.

Thank you for listening to the safety concerns of EAA and of your constituents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Earl Lawrence".

Earl Lawrence
Vice President, Industry & Regulatory Affairs