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The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20500-0004

Dear President Obama:

I write to voice my opposition to your Administration's recent proposal to impose user fees on general aviation aircraft. With 14 million Americans looking for work, our government's first priority should be to create an environment in which businesses can grow and hire additional workers. While I agree that our nation's debt must be reduced, increasing taxes on general aviation aircraft through new user fees could stifle economic recovery.

This issue is of the utmost importance to Alaskans because in Alaska, aviation is the foundation of our transportation system. The majority of our communities cannot be reached by rail, auto, or marine modes and the ability to carry people and goods to and from these communities by air is the lifeline of our nation's biggest state. The effects of new user fees on the Alaskan economy and our way of life would be devastating.

The issue is also of great import to the general aviation industry across America. The industry employs 1.2 million workers and generates \$150 billion in economic activity. In many states, general aviation generates economic development with little or no commercial airline service. Additionally, in 2010 U.S. general aviation manufacturers increased their percentage of exports to 51.6% of all aircraft produced.

The negative impacts associated with the user fees you have proposed would obstruct the Alaskan transportation system and negatively impact the U.S. economy, and I urge you to reconsider proposing such a fee for deficit reduction

Sincerely,



Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator