

Allison Navia
Sanford Airport
LD 2005

Honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation, my name is Allison Navia. I am the manager of the Sanford Seacoast Regional Airport in Sanford and have been an airport manager in the Maine since 2009. After many years of experience with Aircraft Excise Tax and the consensus of airports across the state I brought forward LD2005 to incentivize aircraft owners to choose Maine as their home base, encourage aeronautical businesses to locate here and further expand, to stimulate commerce, and bring jobs. There is no excise tax in neighboring NE states, making us unable to compete. After personally speaking with all 35 public use airports and many municipal tax collectors and town managers I found the overwhelming consensus (over 95%) to be to eliminate the tax. The dissenting airport stated if the majority was in favor, it would be supported and a local fee could be introduced to generate similar revenue. There are no losers. Pilots and business owners have told me they would use the money to invest into their businesses, buy more or newer aircraft, and also fly more, resulting in more sales tax and fuel sales, which provide revenue to the State. The State currently makes zero revenue from aircraft excise tax and stands only to gain from its elimination.