

Randy Marshall
Waterville
LD 2005

As the Director of the Waterville Robert Lafleur Airport in Waterville, Maine I would like to provide testimony in favor of LD2005, eliminating Maine's Aircraft Excise Tax. Please take action to enact this bill.

Waterville has lost several opportunities to have jet and turbine aircraft base at our facility specifically due to aircraft excise tax. The axillary benefits that come with basing those types of aircraft outweigh the taxed aircraft.

Additionally, the state used to collect this tax. The tax was then passed off to the municipality, but not always to one that had an airport. It was poorly rolled out by the state to local municipalities to collect, and many have opted not to for various reasons. The impact is that Airports that have collected the tax have lost aircraft to other neighboring airports that have not collected the tax.

Overall, the benefit to the majority of the municipalities is minimal when collecting the excise tax. It would be much more beneficial to have aircraft that have based out of state due to the tax back.