Don Thibodeau Chair, Eastern Slope Airport AuthorityIZG LD 2005

Exercise tax on airplanes based in Maine is inconsistent, town to town, airport to airport. Border airports such as IZG, have a large percentage of the GA aircraft based but registered in other states. If confronted with taxation, these aircraft will simply move or make sure that they're only here for six months. Larger aircraft with a higher price tag go to Laconia or Portsmouth to base and hanger thus only being transient in the state of Maine. For this reason, it makes small charter businesses more expensive and not willing to base in Fryeburg thus penalizing local citizens from having a small charter service. Being able to service, maintain, and hanger airplanes, create jobs, and bring revenue to the local area.

The money collected for this exercise tax is not revenue that goes back to the local airport, so in fact, it hinders the airport of income to pay maintenance expenses. For the reasons stated above, this excise tax is unfairly applied to only honest Mainers based at airports that have Towns that collect the tax. Please repeal this unfair, inconsistent tax.