



**Eastern Slope Aviation Academy**  
2018 West Side Road  
North Conway, NH 03860  
Flight & Classroom Operations  
Located at Eastern Slope Regional Airport (KIZG), Fryeburg, ME.

### **Support of the elimination of Maine's Aircraft Excise Tax, LD2005**

This letter is in support of elimination of the Maine Excise Tax on aircraft based in the State of Maine.

The Eastern Slope Aviation Academy is a 501(c) nonprofit formed in 2019 to introduce young people in Western Maine and the Mount Washington Valley to career opportunities in aviation. Currently, we have 107 Academy members. We provide flight training, training for aviation mechanics and hopefully soon an association with the FAA to introduce students to careers as air traffic controllers. We also hold a STEM Aviation Camp each year for middle school students. Each camper gets a flight in one of our aircraft.

Our flight training is provided in two aircraft hangered at KIZG. Paying an Excise Tax each year on these aircraft would dramatically increase the cost of operating our aircraft and seriously jeopardize our mission to, *"provide affordable flight training for local students"*. Most of our students are from a socio-economic background where their family could not afford flight training. In fact, over half of our students receive scholarships to pay for their flight training. An excise tax on Academy aircraft would increase the hourly cost of flight training to the point of significantly reducing the number of hours students could fly, thereby jeopardizing their ability to obtain their **Private Pilot license** before graduating from high school.

This year four Academy students went on to attend aviation colleges or universities with their **Private Pilot's license**. This placed them at a significant advantage (and significant cost savings) over students (from across the country) who spend their first year of college obtaining their PPL while Academy students start advanced flight training right away.

I hope you see the economic and competitive advantage to Maine students and communities by eliminating the excise tax on aircraft based in Maine.

Signed,  
H. Edmund Bergeron, President