



February 16, 2017

The Honorable Becca Balint
Democratic Leader
Vermont General Assembly
State Senate
271 South Main Street
Brattleboro, VT 05301

The Honorable Dustin Degree
Republican Leader
Vermont General Assembly
State Senate
31 Bank Street
St. Albans, VT 05478

The Honorable Sarah Copeland-Hanzas
Democratic Leader
Vermont General Assembly
State House
P.O. Box 43
Bradford, VT 05033

The Honorable Donald Turner
Republican Leader
Vermont General Assembly
State House
P.O. Box 487
Milton, VT 05468

Dear Senators Balint and Degree and Representatives Copeland-Hanzas and Turner:

The National Air Transportation Association (NATA), on behalf of its member companies operating in Vermont, supports H. 205, legislation introduced by Representatives Canfield, Baser and Wright, to make permanent the sales tax exemption for aircraft and depreciable parts for commercial and private use. Passage of this legislation will allow Vermont aviation businesses to continue to compete with neighboring states that already offer the exemption, providing job opportunities and increased general aviation activity.

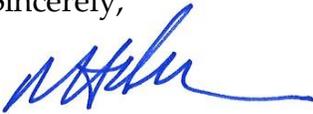
NATA represents a broad array of aviation service businesses essential to a vibrant general aviation sector. Our member companies provide fuel, on-demand air charter, aircraft rental, storage, flight training, aircraft maintenance, parts sales, line support as well as business aircraft and fractional ownership fleet management. NATA members range in size from large companies with international presence to smaller, single-location operators that depend exclusively on general aviation for their livelihood.

General aviation and local airports serve as vital lifelines for communities across Vermont, aiding in business and job growth, and supporting law enforcement, medical care, disaster relief, firefighting and nearly every aspect of public safety. A 2015 report prepared by the FAA concludes civil aviation contributes \$1.1 billion in economic output, \$316 million in earnings and 11,081 jobs to the Vermont economy.

The aviation business sector is incredibly competitive, a flight as short as just a few minutes can result in a substantial savings to the customer – often in the form of savings from reduced taxes. The imposition of burdensome taxes on general aviation aircraft use and purchase will result in business lost to neighboring states. The proposed legislation allows Vermont to remain competitive with its neighbors including Maine, New Hampshire, and New York. As noted by the Vermont Chamber of Commerce, absent this exemption, Vermont aviation businesses can expect to experience reduced economic activity including direct job loss.

We believe the permanent exemption proposed in H.205 will allow Vermont to maintain its competitive position with neighboring states and we encourage its swift enactment.

Sincerely,



Martin H. Hiller
President
National Air Transportation Association