



NATA Asks Indiana State Supreme Court To Review Decision That Could Damage Aviation Business

NATA has learned, through its State Advocacy Network, of an Indiana Appeals Court decision that could potentially damage aviation businesses by providing localities that do not own or operate an airport the authority to regulate land uses at airports within the localities' jurisdiction. Long-standing practice, state laws, and federal grant assurances allow airport sponsors (usually localities that own and operate the airport) the authority to decide exclusively how airport-owned land is used. Under this decision, an airport sponsor would be required to seek permission from a local municipality prior to deciding to what type of uses airport lands could be put.

NATA believes that this decision would harm airports, aviation businesses and airport users. Often localities surrounding airports have priorities that directly conflict with those of the airport authority and the safe and efficient use of the airport within the National Airspace System. NATA has joined the Airports Council International – North America and Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association in asking the Indiana Supreme Court to review and overturn the appeals court decision.

While this is a State of Indiana issue, it does have the potential to affect aviation businesses across the country. If left standing, this decision would likely be seized upon as a model for anti-airport groups around the country to oppose airport and aviation growth, expansion and utilization.

The Indiana State Supreme Court will likely decide whether it will review this case, *Town of Zionsville V. Hamilton Co. Airport Authority*, in the next several months.

[Click here for more information on the NATA State Advocacy Network.](#)