



April 10, 2016

The Honorable Max Tyler, Chair
House Transportation and Energy Committee
Colorado House of Representatives
200 East Colfax Ave.
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Representative Tyler,

Founded in 1939, the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) is the world's largest aviation organization with over 330,000 members nationwide. In my role as the AOPA Northwest Mountain Regional Manager, I serve AOPA members in seven states, including 8,277 members in the state of Colorado. As a not-for-profit membership association, AOPA has for 77 years been committed to ensuring the safety, future viability, and development of general aviation as an integral part of our national transportation system.

On behalf of our Colorado members, I express the general aviation community's strong support for HB16-1315. This bill includes seaplanes in the definition of "vessel" as defined in C.R.S. 33-10-202, and would preclude the exclusion of seaplanes from state waters where motorboats are also allowed to operate.

Colorado is known throughout the northwest region as an aviation-friendly state. While seaplanes comprise a small portion of total aviation activity, they are an important component of the national aviation system. This bill will accommodate seaplanes on Colorado state-owned waters and will expand recreational opportunities that attract aircraft owners and pilots, which in turn will result in increased economic impact on Colorado communities.

AOPA is committed to the highest levels of safety and ensuring protection of all waterways from invasive species while at the same time preserving access to all users, including seaplanes. The best strategy is to adopt policies and procedures that support and mitigate those concerns. This strategy has proven to be successful throughout the U.S., witness the approved conduct of seaplane operations in other states and within federal agency lands managed by the National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management.

On behalf of AOPA, I appreciate your consideration and support of HB16-1315, and respectfully encourage to you to pass this important legislation out of Committee.

Sincerely,

Warren Hendrickson
Northwest Mountain Regional Manager