



COLORADO PILOTS ASSOCIATION, INC.

P.O. Box 200911 Denver, Colorado 80220-0911
www.coloradopilots.org

Office of the Governor
John W. Hickenlooper
200 E. Colfax #136
Denver, CO 80203

September 14, 2015

To whom it may concern:

I am writing on behalf of myself and the Colorado Pilots Association in support of opening waterways within the state of Colorado to seaplane operations.

This effort has been underway for some time now and it is very troubling that Colorado is the only state in the nation that does not allow seaplanes on its water. Past attempts at rectifying this fact have met with strong opposition from the Division of Parks and Wildlife and other governmental agencies using the following 3 reasons, all of which are statistically invalid.

1. **Safety:** Seaplane pilots are required to be trained in “boating right of way” rules and boating safety. Seaplanes are considered to be a vessel once they are on the water and must obey boating rules. Seaplane pilots must also be trained by a Certified Flight Instructor and certified by the FAA in order to fly a seaplane as opposed to boaters in Colorado who require no formal training, certification or licensing. There were over 900 boat on boat accidents in the US last year and 0 seaplane on boat collisions.
2. **Environmentally Friendly:** Seaplanes are the only motorized vessel on the water that leaves ZERO impact. Seaplanes are fully contained and leak no pollutants into the water, require no roads or ramps or trails. Seaplanes are used by many other state and federal agencies including the US Fish and Wildlife Service specifically because they allow safe, environmentally friendly access to remote location for official and scientific purposes. In fact seaplanes could offer Colorado very valuable services currently not available in fighting wildfires, fire spotting, search and rescue as well as bringing a whole new way to experience Colorado’s back country and increase an area of tourism that is currently not available.
3. **Invasive species:** Seaplanes pose no greater risk of introducing invasive species and probably less so than boats. Seaplanes are at altitude, flying at a higher speed and drying quicker than a boat would be, therefore not allowing any “bugs” to hide out. Since the “floats” or pontoons are sealed, there is virtually no way for any invasive species to become imbedded inside the floats. The seaplane engine never comes in contact with the water as does that of most boats. Pilots preform a preflight each and every time they fly, checking the fuselage, engine, wings, struts

and floats prior to taking off. Self-monitoring by seaplane pilots would negate the need for additional FTE from the state or local bodies of water.

There are a number of pilots in Colorado including myself who are trained and licensed (or would like to be licensed) to fly float planes. Not allowing this form of transportation in our state sends a strong message to our general aviation community that is in stark contrast to the proclamation signed by Governor Hickenlooper declaring June 2015 as General Aviation Appreciation Month. We support the initiatives and work closely with the Seaplane Pilots Association in the pursuit of opening waterways in Colorado to interstate commerce and to seaplane pilots both in the state of Colorado and those passing through or visiting our beautiful state.

Respectfully,

Ann Beardall
President, Colorado Pilots Association
303-947-0670