

PA House Transportation Committee  
Hearing March 11, 2008  
Harrisburg, PA

Jay Beratan, P.E.  
President  
Aviation Council of Pennsylvania

Good Morning Chairman Markosek and members of the House Transportation Committee. It is an honor to speak with you this morning as President of the Aviation Council of Pennsylvania.

My full time position is Senior Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer for DMJM Aviation, a subsidiary of Aecom Technology Corporation with over 30,000 employees.

DMJM Aviation has a long history of completing planning, design, program and construction management assignments at airports throughout the world.

As the President of the Aviation Council which is a volunteer position, I along with our other Officers and Board of Directors help set policy, which will assist in attaining our Associations Goals and Mission Objectives.

The Councils Mission Statement is to represent the Pennsylvania aviation community in matters involving government and private sector interests; to improve aviation in partnership with the Commonwealth and the Federal government; and to increase public awareness of aviation in the Commonwealth.

The Council is comprised of members with diverse aviation interests including Airports, Aviation Service Firms, Corporate Aircraft and Charter Operators, firms providing goods and services to the aviation industry and individual Aircraft Owners and Operators.

The Council has seven (7) Purpose elements which are as follows;

1. Promote aviation economic development
2. Enhance public awareness of aviation
3. Maintain strong governmental relations
4. Work toward improving aviation safety
5. Develop and advance state-wide aviation education
6. Provide membership services and programs
7. Assist member businesses and individuals with technical assistance and information.

The Council is one of the oldest State Aviation Associations in the United States. Founded in 1971, the Council has grown with a membership that exceeds 260 plus members and is continuing to grow.

And now, let me set the stage for why we are here.

Today, we come before you to discuss what we at the Aviation Council of Pennsylvania see as a wonderful opportunity to position the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania into a very positive business posture with respect to the aviation and aerospace industries.

We are seeking your support to eliminate PA Aviation Sales and Use Taxes on specific categories. The Aviation Council of Pennsylvania has determined that the present PA Aviation Sales Taxes on Aircraft Sales, Parts, Maintenance and Repairs are providing a great detriment to both the retainage and growth of the aviation and aerospace industry in our great Commonwealth.

Our Council's Executive Director, Robert Rockmaker will now walk you through this project for clarity and definition. I appreciate your time today and look forward on behalf of our members and the entire aviation and aerospace community to seeing our great Commonwealth become a leader in this business category.

Thank you.