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October 9, 2008

Ms. Joan Linnane
District Manager Chicago TRACON
FAA Chicago TRACON
1100 Bowes Road
Elgin, IL 60123

Dear Ms. Linnane:

RE: Request for Additional Chicago Class B Modification Informal Public Meetings

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA), representing more than 414,000 general aviation pilots, including nearly 30,000 in the states of Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin requests the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to provide additional Informal Public meetings for the proposed modification to the Chicago Class B airspace. Additionally, AOPA requests the FAA modify the format of the meetings to better meet the needs and expectations of the users and the general public.

When the FAA sent out the announcement for the informal meetings, the address listed for the location of the first and third meetings were incorrect. Consequently, it is AOPA's contention that this likely resulted in fewer pilots attending to discuss the proposed modification to the airspace. This would result in the FAA not hearing from local pilots who had intended on submitting comments.

Because of the additional meetings, AOPA also requests that the FAA extend the comment period for this proposal by 14 days after the date of the final additional public meeting.

The meeting format that the FAA has chosen to use for the Informal Public Meetings is also a concern. The FAA used an "Open House" style format, which allowed users to interact directly, one on one, with FAA personnel. While AOPA appreciates this personalized service, a presentation style meeting, followed by group discussion, would be more effective in informing users of the proposal and receiving feedback. There is still a great deal of value in the one on one format, which AOPA envisions occurring between the presentation sessions.

AOPA appreciates the FAA's consideration in this matter. If there are any questions, don't hesitate to contact me at 301-695-2207.

Sincerely,

Pete Lehmann
Manager
Air Traffic Services