



February 24, 2010

Representative Wes Keller
State Capitol, Room 13
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representative Keller;

Throughout the course of its history, Peninsula Airways has focused on our responsibility for the safety of every passenger that boards our airplanes. We were early adopters of GPS technology in the 90s, we were one of the first 5 Shield members of the Medallion foundation, and we were active in the first testing of the Capstone system in southwest Alaska. We have recently been working with industry teams to push forward the next wave of navigation equipment designed to enhance air travel safety in Alaska.

Part of the effort to enhance safety is built around the Capstone Loan program that provides low interest loans to early adopters of ADS-B and WAAS technology. To fully appreciate the benefits of this program, Peninsula Airways is requesting that the loan program be expanded to include a lessee of an aircraft, not just the actual owner, as the majority of our larger aircraft are operated under long-term lease agreements. Support of HB354 would show a commitment to improving aviation safety in Alaska and your faithfulness to the economic stability of our vital air transportation system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bryan Carricaburu", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bryan Carricaburu
VP/Director of Operations
Peninsula Airways, Inc.



Re: HB 354

To Whom It May Concern:

Era Alaska represents the largest group of Alaskan owned and operated air carriers in the state of Alaska. We provide an essential network of daily scheduled operations to over 100 communities in the state. Era Alaska operates a variety of aircraft throughout our state;

- 18 Cessna Caravan
- 19 Cessna 207
- 10 PA-31-350 Chieftain
- 4 Cessna 406
- 11 Beechcraft 1900C airliner
- 3 Beechcraft 1900D airliner
- 4 DeHaviland Dash 8-100 series aircraft

We have invested heavily in equipping over 90% of our fleet with Capstone avionics suites. Most of the aircraft in the fleet are leased by the airline from a wholly owned leasing company and by its very nature, under current definition, may be prohibited from using the existing loan program sponsored by the State.

The next generation WAAS upgrade to the Capstone suite is absolutely essential to enhancing the safety of our operations and will benefit over 650,000 passengers each year in our system.

Era Alaska and its' affiliated carriers fully support Representative Keller's HB354.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or I can provide further input.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Hajdukovich".

Bob Hajdukovich

CEO, Era Alaska

*Frontier Flying Service, Inc.
Era Aviation, Inc.
Hageland Aviation Services, Inc.
Arctic Circle Air Service, Inc.*



February 24, 2010

Re: HB 354

To Whom It May Concern:

Era Aviation has proudly participated in the *Alaska Capstone Avionics Loan Program* as administered by the State of Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development. I believe Era was the first commercial (airline) applicant to successfully navigate the loan process through final loan disbursement. The availability of the Capstone Avionics Loan Program was instrumental in Era Aviation's decision to pursue installation of Next Generation avionics for our Bombardier Dash 8-103/106 aircraft. Our new UNS1-Lw FMS/GPS/WAAS navigation receivers represent the most modern technology available anywhere. Use of this new technology will provide our scheduled airline passengers and charter customers with an unsurpassed level of safety and efficiency in use of the US National Airspace System.

Era Aviation has an aggressive avionics upgrade program, in conjunction with using Capstone Avionics Loan Program disbursements, to equip our entire Dash 8 fleet. Unfortunately, a provision of the Loan Program is that the loan may only be submitted by the 'owner' of the aircraft. Most large aircraft are typically leased by the commercial airline through other corporate ownership entities. This existing restriction may unintentionally and unreasonably exclude many large aircraft operated within the State of Alaska from qualifying for a loan from the Capstone Avionics Loan Program. In fact, we are apprehensive that one of our existing Dash 8 aircraft which Era leases from another corporate entity, may fail to fully qualify in actual practice, for the same loan program benefits as the other, identical Dash 8 aircraft which are owned exclusively by Era Aviation.

It is for this reason and the associated goal of promoting higher standards of safety within our Alaskan aviation community that **Era Aviation fully endorses Representative Keller's HB354**, which if passed in its present form would amend the Alaska Capstone Avionics Loan Program to include operators of leased aircraft to obtain loans under that Program. We look forward to the assistance of the Alaska Legislature in helping promote greater use of this important Program.

Please advise if you have any further suggestions or comments regarding this issue.

Sincerely,

Jeff Sharp
VP, Operations
Era Aviation
(jsharp@flyera.com or 907-266-8373)