

## Central Jersey Regional Airport Preservation Campaign

November 18, 2002

The State of New Jersey  
Department of Transportation  
Division of Aeronautics  
Trenton, N.J.

Re: Preservation of Central Jersey Regional Airport

We are in danger of losing an important New Jersey asset – Central Jersey Regional Airport (CJRA) is under the threat of closure.

Small airports are attractive targets to developers. Many have already been paved over and are now shopping malls, high-density housing, or business parks. Land hungry developers eager to gobble up yet another piece of our beautiful green state are besieging airport owners, begging them to sell. We cannot afford to lose any more. Once an airport is gone, that open space will never be available again.

General aviation airports serve local communities in New Jersey in a unique manner. They provide open space in our increasingly crowded state. During disasters they serve as a staging post for police and rescue forces. CJRA was the only high ground when Hurricane Floyd had such a devastating effect on Bound Brook and Manville in 1999. Rescue helicopters landed and refueled there. Local residents camped out in the flight school. This could not happen in a commercial or residential complex. Today local residents walk their dogs, exercise, watch planes land or take off and introduce the next generation of pilots or mechanics to the joys of flight.

The people you see at this hearing come from all walks of life – blue collar and white collar, rich and poor, employed and unemployed, pilots and non-pilots. We are united in our love of aviation and our wish to preserve this very American way of transportation – for business, rescue and recreation. Help us do this.

Sincerely,