

[Insert Date]

[Insert Representative Name and Address]

Dear, [Insert name here]

[Add your own opening paragraph here. Introduce yourself, your business and/or your airport.]

I am writing to ask for your support of AB 1140 (Niello) as amended. AB 1140 provides a one-year delay in the implementation of AB 48, Chapter 310, Statutes of 2009 and the corresponding regulations issued by the Bureau of Private Postsecondary Education (BPPE) for flight training facilities. The bill also requires the Legislature to hold public informational hearings during this time regarding the appropriateness of regulating flight instruction. This delay is necessary to provide an opportunity for the Legislature to fully investigate whether and how the flight training industry fits under the regulations of the BPPE.

AB 48 enacted the California Private Postsecondary Education Act of 2009 (Act) and reconstituted the BPPE. During the AB 48 debate, the flight training industry was not aware of the legislation and not involved in the policy discussions. The industry learned earlier this year, by way of a letter from the BPPE, that it was defined as a postsecondary educational institution and therefore covered under the Act. This came as an immense surprise to the flight training community because the industry was previously exempt from the former Act by way of a Memorandum of Understanding between the former Bureau and the Federal Aviation Administration.

The Act is structured to provide oversight for typical “brick and mortar” private postsecondary educational institutions. That structure is not well suited to provide oversight for an industry as diverse and unique as the flight training industry. As a result, AB 48 and the regulations being promulgated by the BPPE threaten to irreparably harm the aviation industry in our state as many flight training facilities will be forced to close. The job losses and overall economic harm caused by such a fate would devastate the already fragile California economy.

Fortunately, AB 1140 provides a simple and timely solution to this issue. The one year delay in implementation will allow time for the flight training industry to work in partnership with the Legislature to evaluate the application of the provisions of the Act to flight training facilities in a manner that does not threaten to destroy the industry.

Thank you for your consideration and support of AB 1140.

Sincerely,