December 19, 2019

The Honourable Bill Morneau

Minister of Finance

House of Commons Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

(via email - bill.morneau@canada.ca)

Re: Mandated 10% tax on personal aircraft

I am writing to you as one of the over 30,000 pilots and aircraft owners who make up Canada’s general aviation (GA) community and the thousands of GA fans. I am deeply concerned about the recent mandate that was given to you, to implement a new tax on the sale of personal aircraft in Canada.

GA in Canada accounts for over 90 percent of the aircraft on the Canadian registry, and the vast majority of airports in Canada are home to exclusively GA-type operations. GA is the starting point and breeding ground of all of aviation in the country. With the present pilot shortage in the country and around the world, taxing GA aircraft would inevitably increase this pilot shortage.

A recent study by the Canadian Owners and Pilots Association (COPA) estimated the economic benefit of GA to the Canadian economy at over $9.3 billion per year. Of that, $5.4 billion is directly attributable to wages and economic spinoff generated by those employed in the GA industry at small, community airports in cities and towns across Canada who, in turn, raise families and pay taxes in those same communities.

Contrary to some popular opinions, the vast majority of GA aircraft are not owned by the ‘super-rich’, nor are they ‘high-value luxury items’. For most, GA aircraft are a means to facilitate tourism, trade or simply weekend hobbies like any other. Imposing an arbitrary tax on top of the actual GST on the sale of any aircraft would seriously hinder aviation’s future in Canada and cause potentially devastating harm to the airports and jobs that this sector of Canada’s aviation industry sustains.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

**[Your Name]**

Cc: COPA – takeaction@copanational.org

**[Your MP]**