

# Mid Atlantic Aviation Coalition

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Ms. Diane Gutierrez-Scacetti, Commissioner  
New Jersey Department of Transportation  
P. O. Box 600  
Trenton, NJ 0-8625-0600

Dear Commissioner Gutierrez-Scacetti;

Mid-Atlantic Aviation Coalition represents the interests of those New Jersey pilots that operate from the state's small, privately owned airports. The first thing to know about these facilities is that they are mostly family-owned businesses. They do not have the administrative resources to deal directly with the Federal Aviation Administration for funding to improve safety and capacity at their public use airports.

These airports pay local property taxes and relieve the state and municipalities of the burden of providing air transportation facilities to local citizens. Small airport owners survive through their dedication to aviation and by their wits. Right now they need help.

According to state studies, half of all general aviation flights in New Jersey are business related. Those aircraft-using businesses, the mechanics that maintain and service aircraft, the agricultural application fleet, flight instructors, and emergency evacuation operators all depend on safe and capable airports throughout the state. These facility users have no voice in the matter of state transportation funding allocation. They know that the entire state public use airport system is chronically underfunded.

The Directors of MAAC join with New Jersey Aviation Association in requesting that you use the power of your office to seek the maximum amount of federal funding that is being made available to air transportation facilities. We believe that those dollars should be distributed fairly throughout the state aviation infrastructure to include the smaller general aviation airports. Again, these airports do not have the resources to seek direct federal funding that Newark-Liberty, Teterboro and Atlantic City International do. Small airports are literally the backbone of personal aviation in this country. During this period of extreme economic turbulence, small airports need help to merely survive.

We very much want your support and await your reasoned response.

Yours truly,

William B. Leavens, VP, Legislative Affairs