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The passage of HB 173 is an urgent matter this legislative session. The bill will allow aircraft owners to visit Florida for up to 21 days during the first 6 months of ownership of a newly purchased aircraft something that up until now has not been allowed without the threat of receiving a use tax bill from Florida Department of Revenue.

The current restriction on travel to Florida by aircraft owners deprives the State of much needed tourist and business dollars. Passage of this bill will allow aircraft to return to Florida for the owners to do necessary flight training, or have repairs, alterations, refitting, or modification performed therefore bringing much needed revenue to our State.

Everyone is aware of the funds needed by our State to keep jobs and generate income. Passage of HB 173 will help our workers and provide income from dollars spent while aircraft owners are here as they will stay in our hotels, eat in restaurants, rent cars, go to attractions and enjoy all Florida has to offer.

Aviation in Florida accounts for annual economic activity of \$97 billion dollars. Though an impressive amount, the industry is struggling to compete with other states during these difficult economic times. HB 173 will help provide another competitive edge the aviation needs to remain productive.

The Florida Aviation Trades Association (FATA) represents the interest of aviation businesses in Florida since 1946. We look forward to hearing from you and receiving your support for HB 173.