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Have no fear.... Florida is open for business *One signature away*

Titusville, FL April 30, 2010... For many years, non-residents of Florida were staying away from the Sunshine State during the first six months of ownership of their aircraft. The sometimes misunderstood and confusing use tax statute or threat of receiving a use tax bill upon returning home, has kept pilots and their aircraft out of Florida. That will soon change. With the Governor's signature, the new tax exemption will begin July 1, 2010. Newly-purchased aircraft by non-residents living in another state, will now be able to fly to Florida and remain for up to 21 days during the first six months of ownership and an aircraft may enter or remain in Florida exclusively for the purpose of flight training, repairs, alternations, refitting or modification with no time constraints during the first six months. This is a win for out-of-state aircraft owners and for Florida's economy.

Senator Mike Fasano (R-11) and Representative Ralph Poppell (R-29) sponsored the Bill this year and with their diligence and cooperation our efforts were successful. The Florida Aviation Trades Association and aviation allies have been working with legislators for 3 years to make changes and have them understand that the current statute was actually keeping tourist and business dollars out of Florida. It was critical for Florida to make the change that will provide income not just for aviation but for all businesses in the State.

FATA lobbyist Eric Prutsman used all his skill and at times magical powers to work with legislators to get the job done. He was joined in Tallahassee by Mark Kimberling, AOPA, during the last week of committee meetings to navigate the Senate halls to work with leaders to insure passage in both the House and Senate.

Ever since session began though, there have been many people who have given their time and effort to the cause. FATA, Executive Director, Paula Raeburn stated, "Our members. pooled their resources to reach out to their Representatives and Senators to explain the importance of passing the House and Senate Bill. They are the unsung heroes who do the letter writing and make the phone calls that made the difference on this issue. Our presence in Tallahassee is important but when the legislators hear from their constituents they know the voters are watching them in the Capital." The National Business Aviation Association (NBAA) and the South Florida Business Aviation Association (SFBAA) joined the campaign and provided excellent resources to get the job done.

Advocacy for General Aviation in Florida is just part of our mission. With your financial support we continue our efforts to promote and protect aviation. If not a member, visit www.fata.aero, to join and read about all our activities.