

## ***South Dakota Proclamation – GA Appreciation Month***

*WHEREAS:* General Aviation and Community Airports play a critical role in the lives of our citizens, as well as in the operation of our businesses and farms.

*WHEREAS:* The state of South Dakota has a significant interest in the continued vitality of General Aviation, Aerospace, aircraft manufacturing, educational institutions and aviation organizations and community airports and airport operators.

*WHEREAS:* South Dakota Department of Transportation has 72 public-use airports across the state, serving 2,247 pilots and over 1,000 general aviation aircraft.

*WHEREAS:* According to the South Dakota State Aviation System Plan 2010-2030, the aviation industry as a whole supports over 7,000 jobs and \$250 million in wages. With Agriculture as one of the largest industries in the state, agricultural spraying supports more than 300 jobs, and over \$10 million in income.

*WHEREAS:* General aviation *contributes to the state's economy, medical care, transports goods to the state's Indian reservations, supports forest fire fighting, as well as economic development for small communities.*

*WHEREAS:* General Aviation accounted for \$303 million in total impact, or \$401 per capita.

*WHEREAS:* General Aviation is integral to the State's response to emergencies and natural disasters, as well as a key component of business at South Dakota's commercial airports.

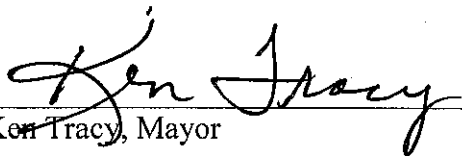
*WHEREAS:* South Dakota is home to 16 charter flight companies, 15 repair stations, and two flight schools operating nine aircraft and providing 27 jobs. In addition, there are 37 fixed-based operators in the state. The South Dakota State University in Brookings, SD is a member of the University Aviation Association.

*WHEREAS:* Organizations like the South Dakota Pilots Association, South Dakota Airport Managers Association, South Dakota Aviation Association, the Alliance for Aviation Across America, National Business Aviation Association, National Association of State Aviation Officials, and National Air Transportation Association recognize and promote the interests and importance of aviation in South Dakota and throughout the world.

*WHEREAS:* The communities within South Dakota depend heavily on General Aviation and Community Airports for the continued flow of commerce, tourists and visitors to our State.

*THEREFORE:* I, Ken Tracy Mayor of the City of Mitchell South Dakota do hereby proclaim General Aviation a vital strategic resource to the State of South Dakota and declare February to be General Aviation Appreciation Month.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 10th day of February in the Year Two Thousand Fifteen.

  
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Ken Tracy, Mayor