



January 18, 2018

McLean County Zoning Board of Appeals  
Phillip Dick, Director  
Government Center  
115 E. Washington St  
Bloomington, IL 61702

RE: Resolution for a Safe Operating Area Near Thacker Airport

Mr. Dick,

In recent days, Mr. William Thacker, owner and operator of “Thacker Airport” and I have been involved in conversations with Mr. Gordon Gray of Invenergy. AOPA is supportive of the following proposal, and urge support from the McLean County Zoning Board of Appeals to accept the forthcoming written proposal from Invenergy and include the changes to the final permit(s) supporting the overall project.

Mr. Thacker and Mr. Gray have reached an agreeable solution to maintain a safe operating area near Thacker Airport. Invenergy has offered to remove wind turbine #22 completely from the project, and move wind turbine #23 to a total distance of 2,700 feet from the east side of the runway. Mr. Thacker has indicated that this plan would be a workable solution for flight operations around the airport. AOPA supports this resolution but would also ask that future consideration be given to removing wind turbine #23, knowing that only 100 of the proposed 117 wind turbines will be constructed. Eliminating wind turbine #23 will erase all safety concerns for the airport. If there are actions that would lead to more deletions of wind turbines, #23 should be considered foremost.

AOPA would also like to take this opportunity to commend Invenergy, the McLean County Zoning Board, and Mr. Thacker for communicating openly and working towards a positive resolution. AOPA holds high regards for municipalities and private companies that wish to aid in promoting and protecting general aviation airports and activities.

Case SU-17-18

Ap. Ex 18



The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) is the world's largest aviation organization, representing 320,000 pilots, aircraft owners, and aviation enthusiasts. On behalf of our membership, AOPA is committed to ensuring the safety, future viability, and development of general aviation as an integral part of a national transportation system.

Thank you for your time and consideration, please do not hesitate to contact me at 301-695-2229 or [kyle.lewis@aopa.org](mailto:kyle.lewis@aopa.org) with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kyle Lewis', is positioned below the word 'Sincerely'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Kyle Lewis

Regional Manager for Government Affairs and Airport Advocacy / Great Lakes Region

cc:

Gordon Gray, Invenergy  
James Griffin, Invenergy  
Dennis Jarman, IDOT