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October 24, 2001

Secretary Norman Y. Mineta
U. S. Department of Transportation
400 7th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Honorable Secretary:

On behalf of all recreational aviation enthusiasts, as well as the industry and flight instruction community, we thank you for your leadership during the last six weeks of turmoil in our nation and the national airspace system. The challenges to reinstate "normalcy" into all civil aviation has been unprecedented; however, DOT and FAA leadership has been extremely important to our recovery.

As you are aware, a major priority for the recreational aviation community before September 11 was completion of a multi-year effort to release the Sport Pilot and Light Sport Aircraft proposal for public comment. Since then, the attention of all organizational and government agency leadership has been on national security and aviation operational recovery. Now that recovery efforts are well underway, we want to reiterate EAA's priority to the completion of this regulatory package. We would ask your personal involvement in assuring the package moves forward.

The benefits of Sport Pilot and Light Sport Aircraft have been highlighted on numerous occasions. The improvements in safety and the boost to general aviation economy through the initiation of new student starts and aircraft ownership are understood by all. As you noted at EAA AirVenture Oshkosh in July, the package is "at the hangar door and ready to taxi." All the reasons that justified the release of this package in July remain unchanged.

It is our understanding that the FAA had responded to all questions forwarded by the Office of Management and Budget. Those responses must be approved by the Department prior to being forwarded to OMB. It is our further understanding that the response package is in your office for approval. We would encourage your assuring that the process continues.

EAA as well as other recreational aviation industry leaders, provided additional information directly to the OMB in support of this regulatory effort in mid-August. As has been the case throughout this regulatory process, EAA stands ready to assist the Department, the Office of Management and Budget, and the FAA in the expeditious release of this Notice of Proposed Rule Making.

Sincerely,
Experimental Aircraft Association

Tom Poberezny
President