

LANTIS ENTERPRISES, INC.
Over 30 Years of Service Excellence

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Mr. Paul Boyer, President
Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association
421 Aviation Way
Frederick, MT 21701

Dear Mr. Boyer:

I have been a proud member of AOPA for over 40 years, until recently. I have heard that you and your staff have taken it upon yourselves to eliminate the FSS system over the US. I assume you are after the Canadian System, of course you do not understand that they charge fees for everything. Not only am I bothered by their fees, but also their unfriendly attitude.

I also assume you feel you are helping the small plane pilot. Again, you are wrong. In fact, I do believe, you are going to be responsible for killing quite a few of them. You are taking away their one link to get them home safely.

There are many times I have heard a local Flight Service Operator talk home a lost or afraid pilot who may have ventured in an IFR situation by mistake. The FSS operator was either a pilot or knew the area the poor hapless pilot ventured into. In North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Wyoming and Idaho this occurs many times.

We presently have a Conquest I and a Conquest II. I am Multi Prop Jet rated with 12 to 13,000 hours logged over 40 years of flying. We go to training every year for both airplanes and I still depend very heavily on the personal contact with the FSS operator. I still feel they are a very integral part of my flying safety. You sir, are taking them away and I totally resent it. In fact, I place you with all the rest of the people who have usurped the authority of your position. Since when does an official of an organization take such a monumental step with out consulting your members? I have not talked to one private pilot that agrees with you, especially those that live in areas with difficult areas to fly.

I will make a prediction, if you succeed in your stupid quest to eliminate FSS, the number of fatal accidents will increase.

Yours truly, a very disgusted member who hopes to get you a job change,

Will Lantis
President

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Cc: Senator Thune, Senator Burns, Congresswomen Herseth, Congressman Johnson