



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Aviation  
Administration**

Office of the Administrator

800 Independence Ave., S.W.  
Washington, DC 20591

July 8, 2021

Mr. David St. George  
Executive Director  
Society of Aviation and Flight Educators  
8030 Kirkpatrick Road  
Sweet, ID 83670



Downloaded from the  
SAFE library. Please join  
SAFE and support our  
aviation safety mission!

Dear Mr. St. George:

Thank you for your June 8 letter in which you and your industry colleagues expressed concerns about the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) position on flight training for compensation in certain aircraft holding special airworthiness certificates.

The FAA recognizes the value of specialized flight training for pilots who regularly operate these aircraft. As you note, this recognition has been memorialized in FAA guidance materials since 2011. To provide assistance, the FAA issued a Federal Register Notice today that provides a streamlined process for owners and flight instructors to obtain a Letter of Deviation Authority (LODA) for compensated flight training in experimental aircraft.

This action enables owners to receive essential flight training in the aircraft they regularly operate, while also preventing the type of operations that were the subject of the Warbirds, Inc. lawsuit. Owners who obtain a LODA will be operating consistently with FAA regulations, which should address concerns about insurance coverage.

For your awareness, the FAA continues to review a request from industry to grant an exemption that would allow owners of limited category aircraft to receive compensated flight training in their aircraft. The FAA expects to address this request in the near future.

I hope that the agency's swift actions on this matter address your concerns. We recognize that these aircraft – and those who fly them – play an important role in highlighting our nation's rich aviation heritage.

Thank you again for your strong commitment to safe and responsible flight training. An identical letter has been sent to the cosigners of your letter.

If I can be of further assistance, please contact me or the Office of Government and Industry Affairs at (202) 267-3277.

Sincerely,

Steve Dickson  
Administrator