

COLORADO PILOTS ASSOCIATION, INC.

P.O. Box 200911, Denver, Colorado 80220-0911

April 13, 2016

Testimony in favor of HB 16-1315

By President Gary Tobey

303-888-0582

The Honorable Max Tyler, Chair
House Transportation and Energy Committee

Committee Members:

Diane Mitsch Bush, Vice-Chair

Jon Becker

Perry Buck

Terri Carver

Don Coram

Daneya Esgar

Tracy Kraft-Tharp

Javon Melton

Dominick Moreno

Patrick Neville

Dan Nordberg

Faith Winter

Colorado Pilots Association, a nonprofit corporation, represents the pilots in Colorado, especially those in general aviation – not “big iron.”

Education and safety. Usually small planes. Mountain Flying Course.

Liaison with 14 other aviation related organizations.

Time to bring Colorado in line with every other state in the nation, and encourage seaplanes on our waters.

Seaplanes offer a special adventure and excitement to complement our other rich recreational activities.

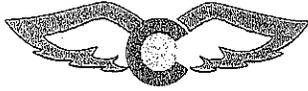
Home to all kinds of aerospace activities and industries.

Makes no sense to discourage an environmentally friendly flying activity.

Parks and Wildlife and most of us tout the Colorado “playground.”

Let’s expand it just a bit to welcome seaplanes.

Colorado pilots thank you for your service and urge your support and vote for HB 16-1315.



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April 12, 2016

The Honorable Max Tyler, Chair
House Transportation and Energy Committee
Colorado House of Representatives
200 East Colfax Avenue
Denver CO 80203

Dear Representative Tyler:

On behalf of the pilots of Colorado, the Colorado Pilots Association adds its strong support for House Bill 16-1315 and respectfully requests that your Committee pass it. This bill goes a long way toward bringing Colorado in line with every other state in the nation. They all encourage seaplanes on their waters – so should the great state of Colorado.

This state is well-known for its rich recreational activities of all kinds. Seaplanes offer a special adventure and excitement for access to our abundant bodies of water. As home to all kinds of aerospace activities and industries that we welcome and encourage, Colorado should not continue its discouragement of one of the iconic forms of environmentally friendly flying activities.

As Ray Hawkins of the Seaplane Pilots Association (and Colorado Pilots Association) has made clear, this state has well over 40 bodies of water that are suitable for seaplane operations. The majority of these are managed by the Division of Colorado Parks and Wildlife. This bill will enable Parks and Wildlife to open waters for seaplanes as a model for other Colorado water managers, including federal agencies.

Due to our fine weather and unsurpassed scenery, the seaplane is another great addition. Those of us who enjoy other activities can share and welcome others to our Parks and Wildlife “playground.” Although I use a land airport, I can appreciate and be joyful when a duck or a seaplane splashes into a Colorado body of water.

Seaplane pilots and their aircraft are federally licensed and highly qualified. They follow the rules of the sky and the water. The Seaplane Pilots Association confirms the extraordinary safety of seaplane operations. This safety protects not only the persons in the aircraft, but also those on and near the water. Seaplane operations adhere to strict rules to prevent introduction of invasive species and leave zero impact on the water. Federal agencies use them in our most environmentally sensitive areas.

Please share with the members of your Committee.

Very respectfully,

Gary H. Tobey
President
303-888-0582