

June 30, 2011

The President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Northwest  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

The National Business Aviation Association, on behalf of its more than 8,000 member companies of all sizes, is writing to express our disappointment with the way you mischaracterized and disparaged business aviation in your June 29 press conference.

Business aviation represents one of the great American industries. It generates highly skilled and well-paying jobs, including the kind of manufacturing jobs you have said are a priority for your administration. It brings economic development to thousands of communities with little or no scheduled airline service. It helps U.S. companies be efficient and flexible – important traits for businesses trying to compete in a global marketplace. And, business aviation helps our country care for its most vulnerable, whether responding to earthquakes and floods, transporting organs for patients, or taking cancer victims to treatment.

The U.S. has long been the world leader in all aspects of business aviation, but other countries are working hard to displace us. Yet, rather than extolling this great American industry, you have chosen to denigrate it.

Nine months ago, you supported a one-year depreciation schedule for purchases of all capital equipment, including business aircraft, because you said shorter depreciation schedules generate jobs. But now, while we still struggle with high unemployment, you want to lengthen the depreciation schedule for general aviation airplanes. That doesn't make sense.

The revenue generated by an extended depreciation schedule for general aviation planes would be less than one one-hundredth of one percent of our debt. In other words, it would do nothing to address our debt issue. But it will stifle new airplane sales, which have been dropping precipitously since the recession.

Mr. President, our country's challenges are significant and worthy of our best collective efforts. Now is not the time to pillory an important American industry in an attempt to score political points.

Mr. President, please visit locations like Lincoln, Nebraska, Melbourne, Florida, Little Rock, Arkansas, Wichita, Kansas, Cincinnati, Ohio and a host of other American towns to see some of the great work that individuals are doing to build or refurbish general aviation airplanes and equipment.

Talk to the thousands of U.S. mayors who recognize that the future of their community is directly tied to the quality of its local airports, which are used by companies with general aviation airplanes. See how companies located in places like Oskaloosa, Iowa, or Moline, Illinois, use business airplanes to compete in the global marketplace. And understand that everyday general aviation airplanes reunite combat veteran with their families.

If you take the time to really get to know America's business aviation industry, I am confident you will agree that it is an industry worth celebrating.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ed Bolen', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Ed Bolen  
President and CEO  
National Business Aviation Association