The State of Washington

Proclamation

WHEREAS, general aviation and community airports play critical roles in the lives of our citizens, as well as the operation of businesses, industry, ranches and farms; and

WHEREAS, Washington State has a significant interest in the continued vitality of general aviation, aerospace, aircraft manufacturing, educational institutions, aviation organizations, and community airports and airport operators; and

WHEREAS, Washington is home to 135 public use airports serving over 20,000 pilots and more than 7,500 general aviation aircraft; and

WHEREAS, public use airports support 248,500 jobs, $15.3 billion in wages, and $50.9 billion in total economic activity; and

WHEREAS, general aviation plays a vital role in our state's response to emergencies and natural disasters, and many communities depend on it for the continued flow of commerce and tourists; and

WHEREAS, Washington is home to 59 charter flight companies, 116 repair stations, and 24 flight schools operating 181 aircraft and providing 360 jobs. In addition there are 64 fix-based operators in the state; and

WHEREAS, organizations including the Washington Airport Management Association, Washington Pilot's Association, Alliance for Aviation Across America, National Business Aviation Association, National Association of State Aviation Officials, and National Air Transportation Association recognize and promote the interests and importance of aviation in our state and throughout the world;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Christine O. Gregoire, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim June 2012 as

General Aviation Appreciation Month

in Washington State, and I urge all citizens to join me in this special observance.

Signed this 24th day of May, 2012

Christine Gregoire

Governor Christine O. Gregoire