

Office of the Mayor

# Watertown, South Dakota

WHEREAS, the City of Watertown, in the state of South Dakota, has a significant interest in the continued vitality of general aviation, aircraft manufacturing, aviation educational institutions, aviation organizations and community airports; and

WHEREAS, general aviation and the Watertown Regional Airport have an immense economic impact on Watertown; and

WHEREAS, according to the South Dakota State Aviation System Plan 2010-2030, the aviation industry supports over \$791 million in state business sales; and

WHEREAS, according to the South Dakota Office of Aeronautics, South Dakota is home to 65 public-use general aviation airports. According to the FAA, these airports serve 2,213 pilots and 1,478 active general aviation aircraft across the state; and

WHEREAS, according to the South Dakota State Aviation System Plan, the aviation industry in South Dakota supports over 7,000 jobs with an annual income of \$250 million. Agricultural aviation supports more than \$10 million of income in the state, according to the same study; and

WHEREAS, according to FAA data, South Dakota is home to 15 repair stations, 3 FAA-approved pilot schools, 397 student pilots and 404 flight instructors. In addition, there are 43 fixed-base operators in the state, according to the AC-U-KWIK directory. According to Helicopter Association International, there are 194 heliports in South Dakota; and

WHEREAS, general aviation not only supports South Dakota's economy, it improves overall quality of life by supporting emergency medical and healthcare services, law enforcement, firefighting and disaster relief, and by transporting business travelers to their destinations quickly and safely; and

WHEREAS, the nation's aviation infrastructure represents an important public benefit, and Congressional oversight should be in place to ensure stable funding of this system;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Steve Thorsen, Mayor of the City of Watertown, do hereby proclaim general aviation a vital strategic resource to the City of Watertown and declare June as

## GENERAL AVIATION APPRECIATION MONTH

in the City of Watertown.

In witness whereof I have here unto to set my hand and caused the seal of the city to be affixed.

Mayor

Date

5-25-16