



**The Recreational Aviation Foundation
1711 West College Street
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www.theraf.org**

November 4, 2013

Rep. Rob Bishop (UT-01)
123 Cannon House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

Re: Utah Land Initiative

Dear Representative Bishop,

By way of introduction I am John McKenna Jr. and am the President of the Recreational Aviation Foundation. (RAF) The RAF is a national organization with over 6000+ members that are from all 50 states and 12 foreign countries. Our mission states that the RAF is dedicated to ensuring that aviation is recognized as legitimate means to access public lands and recreational destinations. We have worked to build partnerships with governmental agencies and conservation organizations. Thru these partnerships we have participated in the planning processes on and around public lands.

The RAF is appreciative to be included in the discussion surrounding the lands covered by this Utah initiative. The continued stalemate that has occurred surrounding the lands in Utah should come to a conclusion. We are supportive of a process that will bring this issue to a compromised solution.

The airstrips on the lands being considered by this initiative are nothing more than internal trailheads. These landing fields serve as a place to begin a backcountry experience, thus the aircraft, without any driven wheels, becomes only mode of transportation to allow for arrival

and departure from that location. The occupants are then hikers, campers, backpackers and the like. They are there only to enjoy these special places, not unlike any other user.

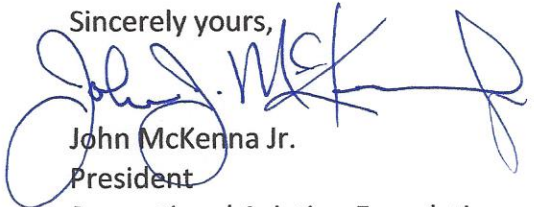
Dating back to the 1920's the aircraft has been a long established user of remote areas. The places that it utilizes are small areas that show little sign of the aircraft, or its occupant's presence in the area over the years. It has proven to be an extremely low impact visitor to these lands.

Continuing to hold these lands hostage to a process that was started in the mid 70's is not a reasonable land management practice. There is an old saying that states "The best time to plant a tree is 20 years ago and the second best time is now." With that in mind let's plant that tree for the future now by bringing this subject to the conclusion that was planned nearly 30 years ago.

The RAF is supportive of this initiative, and is ready to be a willing contributor to the process.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John McKenna Jr.", written over the typed name and title.

John McKenna Jr.
President

Recreational Aviation Foundation

The Recreational Aviation Foundation Mission

"Keeping the legacy of recreational aviation strong by preserving, maintaining and creating public use recreational and backcountry airstrips nationwide."