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# PAUL TITTL

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 25<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Senate Committee on Economic Development,  
Commerce and Trade

SB 557

December 4, 2019

I would like to thank you Chairman Feyen and committee members for allowing me to testify before you today on Senate Bill 557.

Wisconsin aviation faces a crucial problem: the inability to register aircraft liens with the FAA Aircraft Registry.

Our state laws do not meet the requirements for aviation liens to be filed in the FAA Registry. This bill changes our laws to meet these requirements, creating a FAA approved provision allowing the filing of a lien with the FAA. Since 1981, Wisconsin residents claiming a lien with the FAA are not able to do so as our state's current law do not satisfy the FAA's requirements for a claim to be registered.

Therefore, this bill enables those claiming a lien to provide the owner of the plane with written notification giving the name of the person who repaired or serviced the aircraft, the name of the owner of the aircraft, and a description of the aircraft. A process for recording the lien would also be created for those who are owed a debt for the services and labor done on the aircraft. This process would mostly be carried out in a court of law, who could give the rightful lien holder the right to collect a debt that is owed, including by sale of the plane.

People who buy and work on airplanes today in Wisconsin are not notified if a plane has a lien. This means the buyers and sellers of airplanes can get caught up in issues with the title down the road, adding unnecessary time and cost to an already troublesome process.

As you will hear later in this hearing from other speakers, this bill will also help those who work in Wisconsin's aviation mechanical industry and those who work in our state's 132 airports.

If Wisconsin passes this bill, we will be joining 36 other states who already reap the benefits of established aircraft lien laws every day.

I appreciate your consideration of this bill. Thank you for this opportunity to testify before you today.

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Gulfstream™

To: Senate Committee on Economic Development, Commerce and Trade

Senator Feyen, Chair  
Senator Testin, Vice-Chair  
Senator Petrowski  
Senator Ringhand  
Senator Carpenter

Fr: Tom Ramee, Deputy General Counsel and Risk Manager  
Gulfstream Aerospace

Da: December 4, 2019

Re: Testimony in support of SB 557

Thank you Chairman Feyen and members of the committee for the opportunity to testify today in support of SB 557. My name is Tom Ramee I am here today representing Gulfstream Aerospace. Gulfstream has a facility in Appleton employing more than 900 people. We provide service and repairs, as well as final completions of aircraft that are flown up from our Savannah, GA headquarters.

We are grateful to Senator Roger Roth and Representative Paul Tittl for bringing forward this legislation. SB 557 creates recordable aviation mechanics lien law in Wisconsin. This bill will benefit all members of the aviation community – buyers and sellers, mechanics, and their customers.

Specifically, the bill creates a law that conforms to the FAA registry, allows for all those in the aviation industry to utilize the registry as needed, and furthermore, increase flexibility to release an aircraft if full payment cannot be made at the time of service.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify on SB 557. I hope that the committee will be able to support the passage of SB 557, and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have at this time.



Good Morning Chairman Feyen and committee members and thank you for this opportunity to speak with you about Senate Bill 557.

Today things move fast. Business moves fast. People want things done quickly and instant gratification. Nobody wants to wait either for product or service.

This is certainly true in Aviation where aircraft owners and operators want their planes back in the air. Aircraft move fast and can travel far, quickly.

I'm Jeff Baum and I am the President of Wisconsin Aviation and Wisconsin Aviation – Four Lakes here in Madison. We are a Fixed Base Operator, the industry name of aviation service organizations that typically fuel, store, maintain, rent and charter aircraft. Our company provides these services and more here at Dane County Regional Airport, at the Dodge County Airport in Juneau and at the Watertown Municipal Airport. We currently employ approximately 150 people, including 37 that work directly in maintaining and upgrading aircraft, their engines and their avionics – the radio and navigation equipment. These are quality technical jobs that demand high levels of training and expertise. In addition, we have about 45 employees that work directly with fueling, handling and hangaring – i.e. the storage of aircraft.

At Wisconsin Aviation we pride ourselves on quality and customer service: Done right, as promised and with a smile! As promised means on time and on budget. Yet there are times when aircraft leave without the billing charges paid. There are many reasons for this, including based aircraft that may have been on an open account for a long period of time, parts pricing information not yet received from a vendor, a fueling quick turn where the aircraft immediately leaves or off hours pick up of planes that wasn't planned.

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1741 River Drive • Watertown, WI 53094  
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W I S C O N S I N A V I A T I O N . C O M

The vast majority of Wisconsin Aviation's customers are great people to work with and pay their bills religiously. Like anything else there is always that small percentage where trouble can arise, be it from the sale or transfer of an aircraft, financial problems, personal emergencies or in a few cases, simply larceny in their hearts! Whatever the case, aviation business need means to help protect themselves and their workers from these kinds of losses that hinder their ability to pay, train, equip their workforce and build their businesses. Wisconsin is one of only 14 states that does not have this type of legal protection and I strongly urge you to enact Senate Bill 557.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to speak about this bill which is very important to Wisconsin Aviation. I would be very happy to answer any questions you may have.