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Division of Transportation
Investment Management
PO Box 7914
Madison, WI 53705-7914

Governor Tony Evers
Secretary Craig Thompson
Wisconsindot.gov

Telephone: 608-266-3351

February 17, 2022

CYNTHIA RICHSON, TOWN CHAIR
TOWN OF MIDDLETON BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
7555 W. OLD SAUK ROAD
VERONA, WI 53593

Dear Chairperson Richson,

On behalf of Craig Thompson, Secretary of the Department of Transportation, thank you for your letter sharing the Town of Middleton concerns regarding breathable airborne lead particles relative to the Middleton Municipal Airport – Morey Field (Middleton Airport). The mission of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) is to provide leadership in the development and operation of a safe and efficient transportation system, and we take this role seriously. WisDOT values the environment and strives to ensure environmental protection and human safety through vigilant policies and best practices within the state's transportation modes.

There are aspects of the transportation system we cannot control. Aviation fuel is an area that receives a significant amount of attention at the federal government level. 100-octane low-lead fuel (100LL) is allowed by the Federal government and is an industry standard. If Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards are exceeded, monitoring and mitigation are required. To our knowledge, the EPA standards have not been exceeded. Both the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and private industry are working diligently to find alternative fuels to replace 100LL currently used in piston aircraft. Until an alternative can be found that provides the same performance and reliability standards, 100LL will remain the primary fuel in the General Aviation industry.

The aviation industry extends well beyond the state's borders. The Middleton Airport is a local airport but is also part of the federal government National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems. As such, Middleton Airport is vital in the overall national air transportation system. Middleton Airport receives aircraft from all over the country. The flying activity at the airport is both recreational and business related. Middleton Airport is a vital transportation gateway for the region and contributes strong economic value for the local community.

WisDOT is obligated to serve the full spectrum of transportation modes in the State of Wisconsin. Middleton Airport is part of the aeronautical mode. Middleton Airport investment decisions are made locally, and the BOA serves to facilitate and administer FAA and state dollars for eligible airport improvement projects. As long as the airport is compliant with FAA and state regulations, the Bureau of Aeronautics is obligated to serve the airport in this regard.

Thank you for bringing your concerns to our attention. I can assure you that WisDOT is following the alternative fuel research and development very closely.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'DA' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

David Greene, Director
Bureau of Aeronautics
Wisconsin Department of Transportation