



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

800 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20591

AUG 1 2000

Exemption No. 4988E
Regulatory Docket No. 25588

Mr. James B. Short
Chairman, Government Liaison Committee
The Soaring Society of America, Inc.
P.O. Box 2100
Hobbs, NM 88241-2100

Dear Mr. Short:

This is in response to your June 21, 2000, letter petitioning the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) on behalf of The Soaring Society of America, Inc. (SSA), for a 4-year extension of Exemption No. 4988, as amended. That exemption from § 45.11(a) and (d) of Title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) permits all owners, operators, and manufacturers of gliders to continue to forgo the requirement to secure an identification plate or display the model and serial number on the exterior of the aircraft at specified locations.

In your petition, you indicate that the conditions and reasons regarding public interest and safety, presented in the original petition upon which the exemption was granted, remain unchanged.

The FAA has determined that good cause exists for not publishing a summary of the petition in the Federal Register because the requested extension of the exemption would not set a precedent, and any delay in acting on this petition would be detrimental to the SSA.

The FAA has determined that the justification for the issuance of Exemption No. 4988, as amended, remains valid with respect to this exemption. However, the FAA finds that it is in the public interest to require the petitioner to show continued justification and for the FAA to review regularly the appropriateness of an exemption from safety regulations. Therefore Exemption No. 4988, as amended, will only be extended for 2 years.

In consideration of the foregoing, I find that a grant of exemption is in the public interest. Therefore, pursuant to the authority contained in 49 U.S.C. §§ 40113 and 44701, delegated to me by the Administrator (14 CFR § 11.53), Exemption No. 4988, as amended, is hereby further amended by extending its October 30, 2000, termination date to October 30, 2002, unless sooner superseded or rescinded.

All other conditions and limitations of Exemption No. 4988, as amended, remain the same. This letter shall be attached to, and is a part of, Exemption No. 4988.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Erickson
Director, Aircraft Certification Service