



EAA Chapter 1298
2475 Broad Street
Brooksville, FL 34604

August 18, 2025

Hernando County Board of County Commissioners

15470 Flight Path Dr.
Brooksville, FL 34604

Subject: Role of EAA Chapter 1298 in the community and future lease agreement request.

Background: EAA Chapter 1298 has proudly operated at the Brooksville-Tampa Bay Regional Airport (BKV) for over 25 years and is a 501(c)(3) organization. During this time, our chapter has played an active role in promoting general aviation within Hernando County and beyond. Through our commitment to education, community events, county cost savings and maintaining our facilities, we have contributed significantly to the vibrancy and outreach of the airport. Based on the last meeting, we are thankful that the county approved our chapter having right of first refusal, in light of our current lease agreement expiring June 2026. The purpose of this briefing paper is to bring to light the value our organization brings to the community which is deeply impactful.

Value Assessment: Addendum1 showcases Chapter 1298 events, community contributions over the past 5 years, member aviation expertise, chapter resources, and volunteer contributions.

Request: Taking into consideration the value assessment of EAA Chapter 1298 and the approaching expiration of our current hangar lease in June 2026, we respectfully request your consideration in reducing the cost of a future lease agreement by 50%. We understand from BKV administration that a current tenant will be vacating a larger T-hangar on the southeast side of the field by the end of this year. This development presents an opportunity for us to continue—and potentially expand—our service to the airport and community. Realizing the crowded agenda of the county, we also request this be put on the county's agenda at its earliest time possible.

Conclusion: Our chapter remains dedicated to fostering an inclusive aviation community that promotes educational opportunities and encourages public involvement in aviation. The requested lease reduction would help us continue our mission of serving the community through youth programs, aviation education, public events, and volunteer-driven facility upkeep. We would be grateful for the opportunity to discuss this request further and welcome the chance to answer any questions or provide additional documentation to support our proposal.

On behalf of the EAA Chapter 1298 Board of Directors and members, I am

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Umstead', followed by a horizontal line.

Michael Umstead
President, Chapter 1298