

Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Appropriations  
**State Airplane Usage**

The Subcommittee on State Airplane Usage reviewed documents regarding selected state airplane travel. The documents were supplied by the Department of Transportation and the Board of Regents.

Currently, the Department of Transportation owns four aircraft which are located at the State Hanger in Pierre. The 1988 Hawker Beechcraft BE-200 (King Air 200) has 10 passenger seats, the two Hawker Beechcraft (1995 King Air 90 and 1999 King Air II) C90As have 7 passenger seats each, and the 1980 Piper Seneca Pa-34t has 5 passenger seats. The Department reports that all aircraft inspections are up-to-date, the aircraft have had no damage or incident history, and are all in **excellent condition**.

South Dakota State University owns a five passenger 1975 Cessna 310R which is located at the Brookings Airport. The University reports that the aircraft inspections are current, the aircraft has no damage or incident history, and is in **fair condition**.

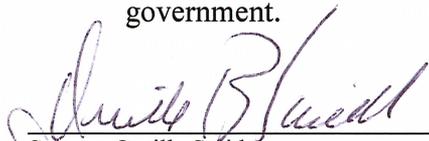
The University South Dakota owns a six passenger 1970 Piper Navajo PA31 which is located at the Vermillion Airport. The University reports that the aircraft inspections are current, the aircraft has no damage or incident history, and is in **fair to poor condition**.

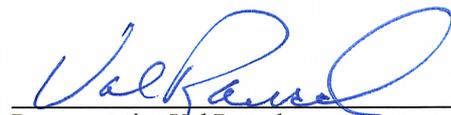
The two university airplanes are in a safe operating condition; however they are old and showing signs of fatigue. It is difficult to find replacement parts and many expensive upgrades are needed. Another major issue regarding the two university airplanes is that they do not have pressurized cabins which prohibit them from flying above 12,000 ft. This restriction grounds the planes when even the smallest adverse weather conditions are present.

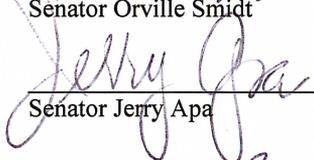
Recommendation

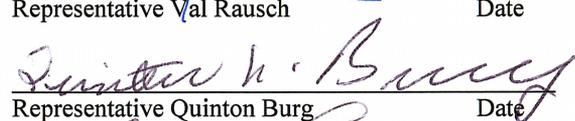
The need for air travel at the Universities will increase with the heightened emphasis on the Research, Education, and Economic Development (REED) Network. It is imperative that all employees working for the State of South Dakota have safe aeronautic equipment available when necessary. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the subcommittee that:

1. Both of the university aircraft be sold on the open market;
2. The state purchase one single engine aircraft for the use of the University system. The Board of Regents, in consultation with university presidents, should prioritize the needs of each university and develop a plan for shared use; and
3. The 1995 King Air 90 currently located in Pierre, be moved to Brookings for use by *all* state government.

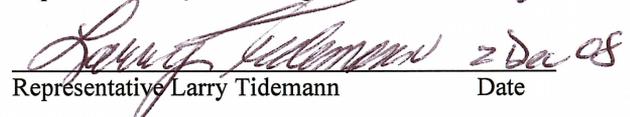
  
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Senator Ryan Maher Date

  
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Representative Larry Tidemann Date

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Senator Arnie Hauge Date