

Dear Divide Merchant:

November 13, 2002

Doubtless, you have heard of the controversy surrounding the Georgetown Airport and the Board of Supervisors' decision NOT to renew the commercial hanger lease of Steve and Trish Cimmarusti, who have been the Georgetown Airport's FBO (fixed-base-operator) for the past 10 years. The lease was up in September, 2002. Yes, the Cimmarustis were late in making some payments, but all back payments were made and satisfied. A County audit has been requested to ascertain if over-payments were credited.

As a Divide Merchant you should be concerned. The financial impact of business loss could be felt by all merchants. All potential business, and customers, are needed on the Divide to generate income and profit. How do the Cimmarustis and the airport affect you?

- The Cimmarustis are home owners and business owners, and they do business with you.
- Their businesses (Blacksheep Classic Airplane Company and Skyways Flying Service) provides jobs for seven people -- four full time and three part-time.
- They provide out-of-town pilots with information of services and opportunities of the Divide. They personally deliver pilots and guests to town.
- Guests dine, lodge and spend money on gifts (or staples if camping).
- They encourage use of the campground and airport, and provide resources for local Club, Church and School activities.
- They host, or co-host fly-in activities which in turn uses merchandise from local businesses.
- They have introduced potential property and home buyers to the local Real Estate agencies; Several visitors have bought homes or property which in turn has brought revenue to the Divide.
- Started local EAA Chapter and Young Eagles program; Local pilots have donated \$10,000 of free rides to our 8-17 year-olds in a national program to take 1,000,000 young fliers to the skies by Dec 2003.

Besides the above, they furnish important services to the aviation community by providing:

- Flight instruction; airplane maintenance and repairs; charters; aircraft rentals; annual aircraft certification; and pilot bi-annual flight reviews.
- A place to purchase aviation supplies; study aides; maps and a "shack" to meet over a cup of coffee and exchange aviation and community information.

Although not required, Steve and Trish provide pilots with:

- Unicom radio communication, such as weather, wind direction and traffic in the vicinity, which is important for safe landings and departures.
- Emergency assistance when they have broken down at other airports.

People of the Divide and visitors who frequent the airport realize the asset the Cimmarustis are, and the value of the services they provide to the community. Who else would provide these services?

You can help your fellow Divide business. Please write a brief letter (using your letterhead) in support of the Cimmarustis. Direct your letter to us (Friends of the Georgetown Airport, P. O. Box 1741, Georgetown, CA 95634) and we will log it and forward it to the Clerk of the Board to distribute. Please address your letter to the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors (330 Fair Lane, Placerville, CA 95667) and ask them to extend the current operator's lease. The Board of Supervisors will meet and accept public comment at their 9:00 a.m. meeting on November 26. You are most welcome to attend and be heard. Your letter will help if the Supervisors receive it in time to read it before November 26.

Although your business may not be directly affected by this issue, other businesses and the community-at-large could certainly suffer a negative impact.

Thank you for reading, and hopefully responding to our concerns. We know a united Divide business community's response will help create a positive response from the County.

Friends of the Georgetown Airport