June 30, 1993

Mr. Paul Meyerhoff II.
[redacted]

Re: FAR 61.118

Dear Mr. Meyerhoff:

This is in response to your letter of June 25, 1993 requesting the FAA's position on the sharing of flight expenses by private pilots. Section 61.118(b) of the Federal Aviation Regulations states that "a private pilot may share the operating expenses of a flight with his passengers."

The costs which may be shared includes only those expenses that would not have been incurred if the flight did not take place; for example, fuel and oil consumed on the flight and ramp or tie-down fees at the destination airport. These expenses would exclude such items as insurance, maintenance or other capital costs. To be in full compliance with the regulation, the costs must be shared equally between the private pilot and his or her passengers.

In the case of your trip to Los Angeles, you may be reimbursed for fifty per cent (50%) of the costs incurred for fuel and oil while your acquaintance was actually flying in your aircraft with you, and any ramp or tie-down fees at Los Angeles. However, the other costs about which you inquired such as insurance, maintenance, hangar rent and engine replacement costs cannot be reimbursed.

Sincerely,

GEORGE L. THOMPSON
Assistant Chief Counsel

By:PETER R.LAYLIN Attorney