

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

March 31, 2009

The Honorable Ray LaHood  
Secretary  
Department of Transportation  
400 Seventh St., SW  
Washington, DC 20590

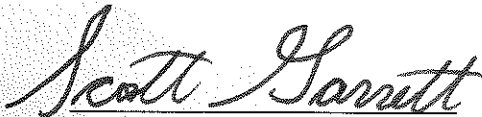
Dear Secretary LaHood,

As representatives from Northern New Jersey whose constituents would be adversely affected by the ongoing implementation of the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) New York/New Jersey/Philadelphia (NY/NJ/PHL) Metropolitan Area Airspace Redesign Plan, we strongly urge you, in your new capacity as the Secretary of Transportation, to thoroughly review and evaluate this ongoing program. Serious questions remain about what effect the implementation of airspace redesign will have on our constituents with respect to environmental quality and aircraft noise.

We continue to believe that when the FAA crafted the airspace redesign plan, improved environmental quality and noise reduction should have been part of the project's purpose and need, along with increasing efficiency and safety. We also continue to have concerns that the airspace redesign could result in a net increase in aircraft noise, which would adversely affect the quality of life of our constituents, while offering only a modest benefit to the flying public. As the Government Accountability Office (GAO) acknowledged in its evaluation of the project, a cost-benefit analysis of the airspace redesign was not performed prior to its implementation.

The airspace redesign continues to be a seriously contentious issue in our districts. Under the new airspace many residents who have never been exposed to aircraft noise will find it to be a part of their daily lives. We continue to believe that creating an airspace in the NY/NJ/PHL region that improves efficiency, improves safety, reduces aircraft noise, and is friendlier to the environment is possible. Achieving this goal will, however, require a thorough review of the program as it already exists. We look forward to working with you and your staff to meet this objective.

Sincerely,



Scott Garrett  
Member of Congress



Rodney Frelinghuysen  
Member of Congress