



*Local governments working together for a better metropolitan region*

June 11, 2008

*District of Columbia  
Bladensburg\*  
Bowie  
College Park  
Frederick  
Frederick County  
Gaithersburg  
Greenbelt  
Montgomery County  
Prince George's County  
Rockville  
Takoma Park  
Alexandria  
Arlington County  
Fairfax  
Fairfax County  
Falls Church  
Loudoun County  
Manassas  
Manassas Park  
Prince William County  
  
\*Adjunct member*

The Honorable Jay Rockefeller  
Chairman  
United States Senate Committee Subcommittee on Aviation  
Operations, Safety and Security  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Rockefeller:

I am writing to express opposition to changes to the slot and perimeter rules at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, as proposed in various amendments to the Federal Aviation Reauthorization Act of 2007. On June 11, 2007, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) Board of Directors unanimously reaffirmed its opposition to any changes to the slot and perimeter rule at Reagan National as stated in the attached Resolution R33-08. We believe that the slot and perimeter rule have been very important tools in managing the volume of air traffic at Reagan National and balancing the economic viability of the region's three airports – Reagan National, Dulles International, and Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall while helping protect the local community from the effects of aircraft noise.

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments is the regional organization of the Washington area's major local governments and their governing officials, plus the area members of the Maryland and Virginia legislatures and the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives—250 members in all. It is our responsibility to coordinate regional issues such as transportation planning, air and water quality, public safety programs, and adequate housing for the region, among others. Air traffic and its impact on the surrounding residences is an issue that COG has studied and discussed for many years. The current slot and perimeter rules are part of a carefully balanced program to mitigate the community impacts from Reagan National while supporting a vibrant air transportation system for the National Capital Region.

Our position with regard to changes to the slot and perimeter rule at Reagan National is strongly held, bipartisan, and unanimous. Indeed, the matter has been discussed on numerous occasions by our local governments and collectively by the COG Board of Directors.

We urge your committee to protect the community and the economic vitality of the National Capital Region and drop any changes to the slot and perimeter rule for Reagan National.

If you have any questions, please contact David J. Robertson, COG's Executive Director, at 202/962-3260.

Sincerely yours,

Michael Knapp  
Chair, COG Board of Directors

Attachment: Resolution R34-08

cc: Metropolitan Washington Congressional Delegation  
U.S. Senate Committee Subcommittee on Aviation  
Operations, Safety and Security