



Local governments working together for a better metropolitan region

July 14, 2010

The Honorable James L. Oberstar
Chairman
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-6256

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*

Dear Chairman Oberstar:

I am writing to express strong 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 2010. On July 14, 2010, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) Board of Directors unanimously reaffirmed its opposition to any changes to the slot and perimeter rules at Reagan National. We believe that the slot and perimeter rules 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 rules 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 rules for Reagan National.

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

Sincerely yours,

Kwame Brown
Chair, COG Board of Directors

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