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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-3217**

March 28, 2008

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Bobby Sturgell  
Acting Administrator, Federal Aviation Administration  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
800 Independence Ave, SW  
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Acting Administrator Sturgell:

I am writing to express my concern that the FAA has instituted such an extremely limited time frame to accept public comments on the proposed operating limitations at Newark Liberty International Airport.

As you know, the FAA has proposed capping flight operations to 83 per hour during peak periods at Newark Liberty. This would be a significant reduction from last year, when the airport was typically handling up to 95 operations per hour.

The details regarding the submission of public comment on the flight cap proposal were published in the Federal Register on March 18, 2008. The FAA stated that the deadline for comment would be April 1, 2008. Although I appreciate that the FAA is investigating methods of reducing flight delays, it would be helpful for the public to be able to comment on such proposals for more than 14 days.

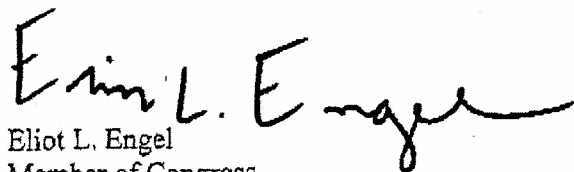
When the FAA proposed the NY/NJ/PHL Airspace Redesign, there was not nearly enough time or opportunity for people affected by the proposal to send comments or questions to the FAA. And as we saw, there was a loud outcry when they were not able to petition their government in time. The public must be allowed to take the time to research FAA proposals and craft a response.

If successful, the flight cap at Newark has the potential to eliminate the need for the remaining phases of the Airspace Redesign. Under this Redesign, residents of Rockland County, which I represent, will have to suffer up to 200 overflights each day. However, if the cap on Newark operations is implemented correctly, the Redesign would be redundant, and hundreds of thousands of Rocklanders will be able to continue to live peacefully.

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DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION  
DOCKETS

I request that the FAA extends the time period for public comment to 30 days, keeping it open until April 16. I look forward to your favorable response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eliot L. Engel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the final "l".

Eliot L. Engel  
Member of Congress