

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

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DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION
DOCKETS

Mr. Robert A. Sturgell
Acting Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Robert:

I am writing to express my support for the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) proposal to temporarily limit the number of flights at Newark Liberty International Airport (EWR) to 83 per day as a means of decreasing delays at the airport and more efficiently using our airspace.

I am supportive of this cap as an alternative to the airspace redesign of flight paths in the New York, New Jersey and Connecticut airspace proposed by the FAA. I believe we should take the unique opportunity flight caps at EWR present to study air traffic volume control as an alternative means of congestion mitigation. I am interested to see the effect the temporary cap has on passenger service and airline delays at EWR upon its expiration on October 29, 2008.

However, the cap should not be used to justify implementation of the redesign, which I feel warrants significant assessment before further consideration.

I agree we must find solutions to accommodate increased air traffic throughout the country. The percent of on-time arrivals at EWR decreased from 70 percent in 2000 to 61 percent in 2007. I believe we must mitigate delays and find ways to accommodate increased capacity in our already strained airports in order to ensure the efficient movement of people, goods, and services throughout the country.

Congressman
Christopher Shays
Fourth District Connecticut

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I would particularly urge the FAA to consider the impacts of volume control on air space efficiency, as well as other market-based mitigation strategies, before implementing a redesign of Connecticut, New York, and New Jersey airspace.

I appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Christopher Shays
Member of Congress

CS:khh