



U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
Washington, DC 20515

Don Young
Chairman

James L. Oberstar
Ranking Democratic Member

May 11, 2004

Lloyd A. Jones, Chief of Staff
Elizabeth Megginson, Chief Counsel

David Heymsfeld, Democratic Chief of Staff

The Honorable Marion C. Blakey
Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, D.C. 20491

Dear Administrator Blakey:

I write to express my support for the continued operation of Buchanan Field Airport in the City of Concord, County of Contra Costa, California (CCR). CCR is an important element in our National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems and is critically important to the economic and future well being of the city of Concord and to Contra Costa County.

I recently visited with a contingent of citizens from Contra Costa County who conveyed their concern over the possible closure of CCR. In my meeting, I learned that the local airport operator, Contra Costa County, is simultaneously spending a \$400,000 Federal grant studying growth of CCR, while spending its own funds developing a Request for Proposals for its closure. The County's conduct is both inconsistent and wasteful. More importantly, the County's activities create the false impression that CCR may be closed.

Under current law, it is extremely unlikely that the FAA can allow Contra Costa County to close CCR. Notwithstanding the remote possibility of the closure of CCR, the County's apparent determination to study the closure of this vital airport has become detrimental to the continued development of the airport and will discourage investment by the private sector.

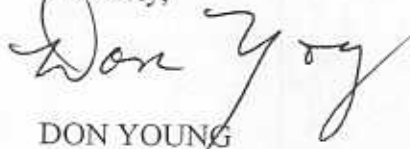
FAA must be as clear as possible that it will not sanction the closure of CCR. When the Federal government gave CCR to Contra Costa County, the county signed an assurance that airport operations at CCR would be maintained in perpetuity. Since then, the Federal government has invested millions of dollars improving CCR. The County must not be allowed to renege on its commitments.

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In the event that the County continues to take action that is not in the best interest of the airport or our national aviation system, the FAA must consider transferring the sponsorship and control of CCR to another local agency that would be more willing and able to meet its obligation to the Federal government.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Don Young". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

DON YOUNG
Chairman