



AIRCRAFT OWNERS AND PILOTS ASSOCIATION
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Phil Boyer

President

August 2, 2004

Senator John Kerry
901 15th St., NW
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Washington, DC 20005

Dear Senator Kerry:

With your long career of public service, you must feel proud on winning the democratic nomination for President. As you know, the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA), represents over 400,000 general aviation pilots. Over 94% of these individuals voted in the last presidential campaign and live in many of the communities you will visit while on the campaign trail.

Our members are appreciative that you have not requested the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to provide temporary flight restrictions (TFRs) over your routes of travel and destinations. While you hold the prerogative to ask for TFRs, as a pilot you must realize what a major disruption these "pop-up" flight restrictions cause for air commerce. This has been especially true in the case of bus tours where the airspace restrictions travel along the route of the tour, requiring pilots to carry not only an aeronautical chart, but also a roadmap! Airspace restrictions associated with President Bush's travel continues to cause major disruptions and delays to air traffic; with over 20 TFRs for the President and Vice President implemented the week of the Democratic National Convention (DNC) alone.

Any time pilots get together, the subject of these flight restrictions is a regular topic of frustration, especially those in politically high profile states that have been the site of numerous Presidential visits. They question why are they as pilots being considered a threat -- arguing that these large (often in excess of a 60 mile diameter) areas are not necessary and do not enhance security. The reality is that ground-based security measures are the most effective way to ensure the safety of candidates, their staff and citizens. In addition, the FAA is still not always providing proper advance notice for those planning flights and the innocent airspace incursions are often because the pilot was uninformed.

On behalf of the hundreds of thousands of pilots who rely on predictable access to airspace for their flight activities, I want to personally thank-you for your common sense approach to security in NOT requesting airspace restrictions for your campaign travels.

Sincerely,

Phil Boyer