

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC

October 5, 2004

The Honorable Marion C. Blakey
Administrator
Federal Aviation Administrator
800 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Administrator Blakey:

I write to request that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) formally extend the comment period to fully assess the potential impact of its proposal to establish Military Operations Areas (MOA) at Cherry Point, North Carolina. I also request that the FAA re-circulate the proposal to the public for comment.

I am concerned that the FAA has failed to consider the full impact of this proposal on the general aviation community in North Carolina and contend that an extension of the comment period will give those most affected, North Carolina pilots, the opportunity to comment.

Furthermore, there is some dispute to how FAA notified North Carolina general aviation pilots on their proposal to establish two MOAs near the Outer Banks. In light of this, I believe that the FAA should formally extend the comment period and notify all North Carolina pilots, to ensure they are given adequate notice and opportunity to comment.

General aviation is vital to the state of North Carolina. North Carolina is home to over 13,000 pilots who rely on general aviation for business and pleasure. These proposed MOAs have serious implications for the state and I respectfully urge you to consider the input of the North Carolina pilot community on the effect these changes will have on general aviation.

I appreciate your cooperation and look forward to working with you on this issue.

Very truly yours,



G. K. Butterfield
Member of Congress