

May-08-03 03:21pm From-CONGRESSMAN BARTLETT

202 225 2183

T-824 P.002/003 F-373

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 2, 2003

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REGULATORY REFORM OVERSIGHT
RURAL ENTERPRISES, AGRICULTURE,
AND TECHNOLOGYThe Honorable Tom Ridge
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20502

Dear Secretary Ridge:

I am writing to you today in opposition to the Department of Defense (DOD) proposal that would expand the Camp David temporary flight restriction (TFR) from a 10-nautical mile (nm) radius to 30nm radius when the President is in residence.

This request translates to a swath of airspace sixty miles across, or the equivalent of driving distance from the White House to the front door at Camp David. The expansion of the restricted airspace known as "P-40" coupled with the existing extensive restrictions around Washington, DC, would create a "wall" of restricted airspace (north to south) nearly 70-nautical miles long. These restrictions would have a significant impact on aviation operations, limiting operations at 11 airports in Maryland, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia, costing nearly \$250,000 per day directly and \$677,000 per day in indirect economic impact.

At no time in its 61-year history has Camp David been subject to an airspace restriction of this magnitude. In use as a Presidential retreat since 1942, Camp David has been the site of numerous summits and meetings and has been used extensively by President Bush and visiting dignitaries since September 11. Accidental airspace incursions into the current P-40 airspace area have decreased over time. Pilots are aware of the current restriction and are taking the appropriate steps to avoid the airspace.

Pursuing enforcement action against violations is the most important step that security officials can take to preserve the security functions of the TFRs. Security and the general aviation airspace access can coexist and stronger enforcement of the current 10-mile Presidential TFRs, rather than its expansion, is the best course of action for maintaining Presidential security. To that end, the Department of Homeland Security should work with the FAA to emphasize compliance with airspace restrictions to pilots.

Again, I ask for you to not to support the DOD request. Expanding the airspace restrictions from 10nm to 30nm would be excessive and unnecessarily restrict air commerce.

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202 225 2193

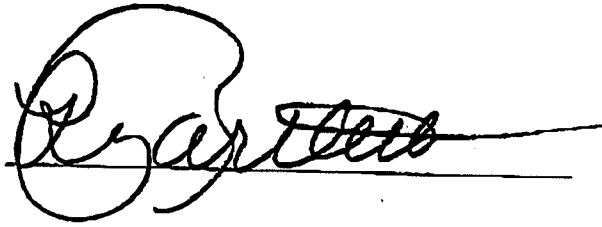
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The Honorable Tom Ridge

April 28, 2003

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Sincerely,



A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Tom Ridge", written over a horizontal line.



A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ben Cardin", written over a horizontal line.