



Congress of the United States of America  
House of Representatives

Vernon J. Ehlers

October 18, 2005

Michigan

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

Re: Docket Number: FAA-2004-17005

Dear Administrator Blakey,

I am strongly opposed to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) proposal to make permanent the temporary flight restrictions over the Washington, DC metropolitan area.

The proposed rule is troubling for several reasons. One, the FAA is proposing to make the Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ) permanent without addressing the necessary operational concerns to ease the burden on pilots and air traffic controllers. Two, experience has shown that once a regulation like this is in place, it is incredibly difficult to remove it.

The ADIZ was originally designed as a temporary measure, with little regard for its effect on aviation operations, airports and businesses. Due to its size and operational requirements, the ADIZ has been especially difficult for pilots of general aviation aircraft and the businesses and airports that support them. I have heard from many general aviation pilots who have experienced problems trying to operate in the ADIZ, including increased hold times, potentially unsafe maneuvering as they circle outside the ADIZ, confusing clearances, lost flight plans and stiff and irreversible penalties for minor infractions.

I have spent my whole career trying to convince regulators and my colleagues to get rid of rules and regulations that place a substantial burden or pose an unnecessary nuisance without significantly increasing safety or security. Aviation security around our nation's capitol is certainly important. However, making the ADIZ permanent is not the solution. No general aviation aircraft has ever been used in a terrorist attack, and the government has determined that not a single ADIZ violation was terrorist-related. Lighter aircraft, flying at slower speeds, should not be subject to the current ADIZ requirements for filing a flight plan, obtaining a unique transponder code, and maintaining two-way communications with air traffic control.

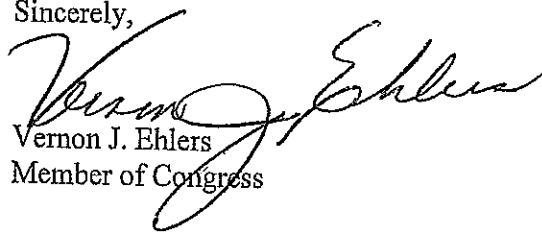


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I urge you to work cooperatively with the general aviation community to address the operational issues surrounding the ADIZ, to identify and reduce specific threats, and to facilitate the flow of general aviation traffic in the DC area.

Thanks for your attention to my views. With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,



Vernon J. Ehlers  
Member of Congress

VJE:mr