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UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

June 15, 2006

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

Re: Aeronautical Study No. 2006-AEA-611-OE

Dear Administrator Blakey:

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the Federal Aviation Administration's proposal to erect a 122' surveillance radar antenna approximately one mile east of the Frederick Municipal Airport (FDK) in my district.

The proximity of the proposed antenna to the airport is significant, as it requires an aeronautical study to be conducted by your agency. On May 15, the Air Traffic Airspace Branch issued a notice of presumed hazard, stating that the "initial findings of this study indicated that the structure as described exceeds obstruction standards and/or would have an adverse physical or electromagnetic interference effect upon navigable airspace or air navigation facilities." This is very alarming.

According to local pilots who have contacted my office regarding this matter, should your agency proceed with this project, additional action will be required to mitigate the antenna as a hazard. I understand this would likely result in a change to the existing instrument approach procedures at FDK, limiting pilots' ability to fully utilize the instrument landing system during certain weather conditions.

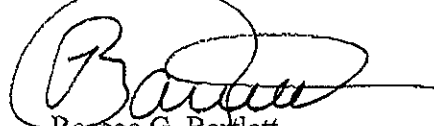
The FAA derives its statutory authority to perform aeronautical studies from 49 U.S.C. §44718. This statute requires public notice of construction near airports to promote "safety in air commerce; and the efficient use and preservation of the navigable airspace and of airport traffic capacity at public use airports." But instead of pursuing this mission and studying alternative locations for the proposed antenna or ways to lower its height, your agency has initiated additional study to determine the extent and adverse impact it might pose. As you can imagine, this creates an awkward perception of the FAA's ability to enforce its own regulations.

In addition to including this letter in the study's docket (2006-AEA-611-OE), I ask that you respond, in writing, to the following questions:

1. Is the FAA currently considering other locations for this proposed antenna?
2. Is the FAA currently considering lowering the height of this antenna?
3. What steps are being taken to ensure this study is conducted in a manner consistent with those performed for proponents of private projects?

I appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Roscoe G. Bartlett
Member of Congress