



AIRCRAFT OWNERS AND PILOTS ASSOCIATION
421 Aviation Way • Frederick, Maryland 21701-4798
Telephone (301) 695-2020 • FAX (301) 695-2375

Phil Boyer
President

January 22, 2007

Mr. Richard Blumenthal
Attorney General, State of Connecticut
Office of the Governor
210 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: Flight Restriction over Proposed Natural Gas Terminal

Dear Mr. Blumenthal:

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) is a membership organization representing the interests of nearly 410,000 general aviation pilots and aircraft owners nationwide including 35,000 pilots in the states of Connecticut, New York and New Jersey, who would be affected if your recommendation for airspace restrictions over the proposed natural gas terminal in the middle of Long Island Sound were to be acted upon.

AOPA strongly urges you to withdraw your request to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for airspace restrictions over Long Island Sound. It would do nothing for security and yet adversely affect Groton New London Airport and other airports in the area.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Department of Transportation (DOT) in consultation with top security advisors, have reviewed similar requests on numerous occasions and determined that an airspace restriction over such facilities is not appropriate or necessary. Reinforcing the fact that airspace restrictions prove to be a poor solution when addressing the issue of physical plant security for all types of facilities. Airspace restrictions do nothing more than negatively impact the users of the National Airspace System whom are law abiding citizens.

Mr. Richard Blumenthal

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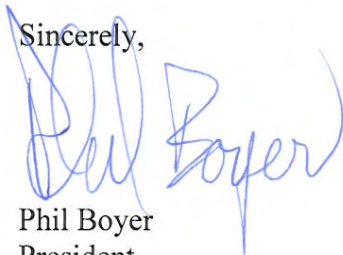
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The U.S. Congress, Transportation Security Administration (TSA), FAA and the general aviation industry have taken numerous actions to enhance general aviation security. These include the formulation and release of the TSA's Guidelines for General Aviation Airport Security, the continual screening of pilots names against known terrorist watch lists, specific screening of non U.S. citizens before they begin flight training, regulations that require pilots carry government issued photo identification in addition to their pilot certificate when flying, new counterfeit resistant pilot certificates, participation in flight school security awareness programs, charter flight security programs and most significantly an overall increased awareness promoted by AOPA's Airport Watch Program.

Our members recognize the responsibilities the nation's pilots must assume to help keep the U.S. safe and secure. This includes being vigilant for suspicious activity and properly securing their aircraft. Flight restrictions of the nature you are requesting, while hindering law-abiding citizens, do nothing to increase security.

If the FAA or TSA were to identify credible threats to natural gas terminals, rest assured that the appropriate federal agencies would take action to protect its citizens.

Sincerely,



Phil Boyer
President

cc: Gov. Jodi Rell

Marion Blakey, Federal Aviation Administration

Kip Hawley, Transportation Security Administration