

JEFF FLAKE  
ARIZONA

SR-368 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
(202) 224-4521  
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS  
COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
COMMITTEE ON AGING

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0305

February 20, 2015

STATE OFFICES:  
2200 EAST CAMELBACK ROAD  
SUITE 120  
PHOENIX, AZ 85016  
(602) 840-1891

6840 NORTH ORACLE ROAD  
SUITE 150  
TUCSON, AZ 85704  
(520) 575-8633

Honorable Michael Huerta  
Administrator  
Federal Aviation Administration  
800 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Administrator Huerta:

I write regarding the ongoing issue with flight paths for Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport.

As you are aware, on September 18, 2014, the Federal Aviation Authority (FAA) implemented a new procedure that changed the departure routes at Sky Harbor Airport. Concern has been raised regarding these changes by the City of Phoenix and its residents, some of whom have registered noise complaints. In addition to individual complaints, it is my understanding that the Arizona's Historic Preservation Office has also formally withdrawn its prior consent to the flight path changes because of the greater than anticipated impact on historic properties.

On December 23, 2014, the City of Phoenix wrote to the FAA requesting it reverse the September 2014 decision to alter certain flight departure paths. In addition to this letter, the City of Phoenix has met with FAA officials in both Washington D.C. and Arizona, in hopes of finding a workable solution. In fact, recognizing the significance of this matter, Congress directed the FAA to work with Sky Harbor. The Joint Explanatory Statement accompanying the Fiscal Year 2015 Omnibus; Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act included the following:

*"Phoenix departure procedures. - The FAA has been helpful in evaluating measures to address local concerns that have been raised as a result of new departure routes out of Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport. The FAA is directed to continue to work expeditiously to identify appropriate mitigation measures and to enforce adherence to flight procedures, unless specific flight modifications are necessary for safety purposes, in order to avoid impacts on nearby residential neighborhoods. The FAA is expected to provide a progress report on these measures to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations within 90 days of enactment of this Act."*

I am encouraged by actions that have already taken place and am hopeful the FAA and the City of Phoenix can reach a solution that is mutually advantageous to each party. I understand the FAA is in the process of initiating a Performance Based Navigation Working Group. I encourage continued cooperation and dialogue with the City of Phoenix on this important issue. Please contact Sarah Towles at Sarah\_Towles@flake.senate.gov if my office can offer any assistance in this process. I appreciate your attention to this request, in strict accordance with all existing rules, regulation, and ethical guidelines.

Sincerely,



Jeff Flake  
U.S. Senator