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CITY OF DANBURY

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
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MAYOR

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October 30, 2007

Honorable Members of the Common Council
City of Danbury, Connecticut

Dear Common Council Members:

On September 5, 2007 the Federal Aviation Administration issued a "Final Decision and Order" for its plan to redesign airspace in Greater New York, in their view to enhance efficiency for the air traffic control system. However, impacts will include increased jet noise as incoming flights to La Guardia are rerouted from the Hudson Valley in New York State to Fairfield and Litchfield Counties in Connecticut. The City of Danbury may experience changes to existing commercial flight traffic into New York airports and some changes to Danbury Airport flight operations.

The City of Danbury is being asked to join a consortium of Fairfield and Litchfield County communities to seek a reversal of the FAA's decision. A group of municipalities formally known as the "Alliance For Sensible Airspace Planning" (AFSAP) currently includes Redding, Ridgefield, Darien, Greenwich, New Canaan, Norwalk, Stamford, Weston, Wilton, Westport and Pound Ridge, NY.

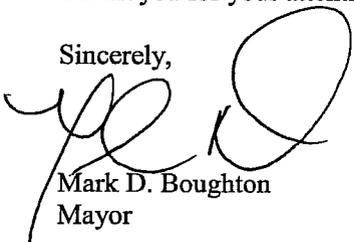
According to AFSAP's technical consultants, the greatest increase in noise in our area is forecast to occur along a generally north-south band stretching from Bridgewater, New Milford, Brookfield and Danbury through Redding and Ridgefield to New Canaan and Stamford. Yet the new flight pattern over Connecticut will enable air traffic controllers to legally and quickly move the proposed north-south flight path fifteen miles east or west, so all of Fairfield County and southern Litchfield County will be impacted.

With AFSAP's effort, many leaders believe the unfavorable FAA decision can be reversed. The coalition is fighting to win and has engaged legal and political skills to participate effectively. The law firm of McDermott, Will & Emery has been engaged and other specialized services groups are also being contracted. AFSAP currently budgeted \$920,000 for this effort, a cost that may increase should we experience an extended Circuit Appellate Court appeal. Danbury's share could be \$45,000 to \$125,000 depending on the final membership of the coalition and the equitable cost-sharing agreement that we approve. Each additional community that joins lowers the percentage share for all other members. Rockland County in New York, Bergen County in New Jersey and other groups has filed separate appeals.

Participation in the coalition seems an appropriate, measured response to the FAA's plans. I propose Danbury join the coalition to help preserve the quality of life we enjoy.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Mark D. Boughton
Mayor

MDB/mm

