

Teterboro Working Group Hosts Public Forum on Historic Agreement

For Immediate Release: November 30, 2006

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Pictured: Congressman Rothman explains to residents that he is hopeful that the recent agreement on operations at Teterboro Airport will work. However, he has not ruled out the possibility of stronger action, if necessary.

(Moonachie, NJ)— On Monday, November 27, 2006, the Teterboro Airport Industry Working Group with special guest Congressman Steve Rothman (D-Fair Lawn) hosted a public forum to discuss the recently announced pledges to create a safer, more secure and quieter environment at Teterboro Airport. Specifically, this agreement calls for a ban on the loudest jets at the airport, a nighttime curfew on flights between 11:00pm and 6:00am, keeping heavy planes from ever operating at the airport, and improved safety and security protocols.

The session began with statements from members of the Working Group and Congressman Rothman. Then, during a question-and-answer period, residents addressed a range of issues, including noise and environmental pollution, the possibility of redirecting some air traffic to Stewart Airport, the nighttime curfew, and the relationship between the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

In discussing the FAA's hostility toward the Port Authority and residents, Rothman said: "The FAA wants completely unfettered skies, where planes of any size can fly anywhere at anytime. The Working Group's voluntary agreement is the best option we have in front of us at this time because the FAA will fight us at every turn if we try to make these policies mandatory."

The agreement seems to be having a positive impact. According to preliminary data unveiled at the meeting, late night flights from October (when the agreement was announced) to November 16th are down nearly 14% from the same time period last year. And Stage 2 noisy aircraft movements over the last month and a half were down almost 19% from the same time period last year.

"The proof will be in the pudding to see if these promised noise, safety, and security goals are met within the next year," added Rothman. "Either way, we will continue to look for new voluntary agreements, mandatory legislation, regulation, or litigation to continually raise the bar for actions at the airport that will improve the quality of life for the people affected by this airport."

Bernadette McPherson, Chairwoman of the Bergen County Board of Freeholders and Rutherford Mayor, attended the meeting along with dozens of residents. Hasbrouck Heights Councilwoman Carol Skiba, Rutherford Councilman Richard Reyes, Wood-Ridge Councilman Richard Carbonaro, and Moonachie Mayor Fred Dressel also came out for the meeting.

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