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October 7, 2004

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Linear Air May Violate Federal Ban Against Scheduled Charter Service He Got Enacted Last Year; Working with Port
Authority To Stop Linear Flights, Calls On

U.S. Department of Homeland Security To Investigate Any Security Lapses

Washington, DC - Vowing to protect the safety and quality of life for the people of Northern New Jersey, Congressman Steve Rothman (D-Fair Lawn) has launched a major effort to stop Linear Air, a new airline service that is operating what appears to be scheduled charter service at Teterboro Airport. Despite a new law authored by Rothman last year that bans scheduled charter service at Teterboro Airport, Linear Air has begun operating what it describes as "regular routes" between Teterboro Airport and Bedford, Massachusetts on Mondays, Tuesday, Thursdays, and Fridays for \$199 each way. Rothman has called upon both the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANYNJ), which operates Teterboro Airport, as well as the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to immediately review Linear Air's service at Teterboro. Rothman said he believes the airline company may well be violating the new ban on scheduled charter service and may also be posing a security risk because of inadequate screening procedures.

"The people of Northern New Jersey have already suffered more than enough from airline companies trying to make a profit at their expense. Last year we defeated the threat of the Boeing Business Jet and Indigo Airlines operating at Teterboro Airport, and I am going to ensure that the safety and quality of life of our residents is not undermined by Linear Air," Rothman said. "I am working with the relevant government agencies to determine the legality of Linear Air's service at Teterboro Airport. One way or the other, we will act to keep Linear Air from offering regularly scheduled charter service at Teterboro Airport."

Last year, Rothman authored, got passed in Congress, and got signed into law, a measure to permanently ban scheduled charter service at Teterboro Airport. The provision, which is part of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Reauthorization bill, closed the loophole that allowed charter aircraft, most recently Indigo Airlines, to operate at Teterboro Airport on a regular, scheduled basis. Rothman credited U.S. Senators Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) and Jon Corzine (D-NJ) with helping to ensure Senate approval of the provision he authored. President Bush signed the bill into law on December 12, 2003.

After learning of Linear's new service at Teterboro, Rothman immediately contacted Bill DeCota, Director of Aviation for the PANYNJ, and asked him to review Linear Air's operations at Teterboro. The PANYNJ informed Rothman that they have initiated an immediate legal review of Linear Air and plan to further explain Rothman's law banning scheduled charter service to the company's CEO in a meeting in the next few days. On a separate track, Rothman has called on Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security for the U.S. Transportation Security Administration, Admiral David Stone, to immediately investigate whether Linear Air is taking all of the necessary security precautions with regards to passengers and cargo on their flights to and from Teterboro.

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