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To Continue Fight Against Aircraft Noise At Teterboro Airport
Congressman Discusses Noisy and Large Plane Bans He Has Secured,
Need To Further Improve Quality Of Life

Washington, DC - As part of his continuing effort to fight aircraft noise at Teterboro Airport, Congressman Steve Rothman (D-NJ9) today briefed Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Administrator Marion C. Blakey on the impact the airport has on the quality of life of Northern New Jersey residents. Rothman discussed the bans he has already secured on the noisiest and largest planes at Teterboro. He also discussed his vision for additional bans on the next level of loud aircraft engines and the redesign of airspace routes that would lessen noise for the people of Northern New Jersey.

"I was delighted to have the opportunity to sit down one-on-one with Administrator Blakey to make her aware of just how important combating aircraft noise is to the people of Northern New Jersey," Rothman said following the meeting. "The meeting was positive and I look forward to working closely with Administrator Blakey to fight aircraft noise at Teterboro and the noise emanating from planes en route to and from LaGuardia, Newark, and JFK airports. While we have achieved great successes in preventing the noisiest and largest planes at Teterboro, there is more work to be done in order to improve the quality of life for the hundreds of thousands of New Jerseyans who suffer from aircraft noise."

Administrator Blakey said, "Our meeting provided a good opportunity to emphasize one of the FAA's top priorities. The FAA will do its best to be responsive to nearby community needs as we redesign airspace or undertake airport facility improvements."

Following nearly two years of extensive lobbying of the country's top aviation officials, including then-FAA Administrator Jane Garvey, Rothman last year secured the FAA's approval to uphold the weight limit that bans the Boeing Business Jet, a 737 aircraft, from landing at Teterboro Airport. The FAA denied Boeing's request to overturn the 100,000 pound weight limit at Teterboro Airport that would have allowed the Boeing Business Jet, which weighs as much as 171,000 pounds, to operate at the airport. Additionally, Rothman last year secured a ban from the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey that has kept the noisiest aircraft, those with Stage 1 engines, from operating at Teterboro Airport.

In addition to making sure that Blakey, who was sworn into office in September 2002, was fully aware of the history of his fight against aircraft noise at Teterboro Airport and how negatively the noise affects local residents' quality of life. Rothman strongly encouraged the FAA Administrator to continue the FAA's efforts to redesign airplane routes for all New York Metropolitan airports to cut down on aircraft noise over Northern New Jersey. Possible alternatives discussed included routing more planes over the Atlantic Ocean instead of populated areas where the noise disturbs local residents and workers.

"Whether it is trying to get a good night's sleep or just enjoying a quiet afternoon alone or with the family, Northern New Jersey residents deserve to live in neighborhoods that are not constantly plagued by the thunderous roar of jets above," Rothman said. "We have already eliminated the noisiest culprits, planes with Stage 1 engines, and am hopeful that with redesigned airspace, and FAA support of a Stage 2 ban, that we can look forward to more progress toward quieter times."

The Stage 1 ban at Teterboro Airport that Rothman secured for the Port Authority was only the second of its kind in the nation. Rothman has continued to lobby the Port Authority to find a way to ban Stage 2 engines.

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[Go back](#)