

Teterboro Airport Has a "Measurable Impact" on Air Quality in Local Towns

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(Washington, DC)—Today, Congressman Steve Rothman (D-NJ) received the final results of an air safety study to determine how dirty and dangerous the air surrounding Teterboro Airport has become. New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and Environ Corporation conducted the study, which concluded that Teterboro operations have a "measurable impact" on local air quality. However, the DEP says the data are insufficient to quantify the extent of the impact - how much is attributed to Teterboro and how much is attributed to other sources, such as cars on Route 17.

Congressman Rothman's statement on the study, which began in 2006, follows:

"This study shows that those who live around Teterboro Airport breathe air that is dirtier and more dangerous than is acceptable. While the authors say more studies are needed to determine the extent of the problem, the fact that there is a measurable impact at all is cause for concern. I again urge the Federal Aviation Administration, Port Authority of NY/NJ and Teterboro Airport management to decrease the idling time of aircraft on the runway and decrease the number of flights coming in and going out of Teterboro Airport.

"Some may argue that the air quality results in this study seem on par with that of other airports, suggesting they are acceptable. However, that view misses the point: Teterboro Airport was never intended to serve as a major hub. People cannot assess what is acceptable for Teterboro Airport by the same standards used to determine what is acceptable for John F. Kennedy Airport or LaGuardia.

"Teterboro is a reliever airport, located right in the middle of a neighborhood. Residents live just a few hundred yards from the runways where the sensors for this study were placed. Teterboro air traffic, and the resulting noise and air pollution, are clear impediments to the quality of life for Teterboro area residents. This study does not answer all of the questions I have posed, nor does it address all the concerns of residents. But it is proof that continued work is needed to decrease the number and size of aircraft operating at Teterboro Airport."

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