

Rothman Urges Aviation Subcommittee to Allow 'Reasonable Limits' Over Local Airports

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Testifies that Airports, such as Teterboro, Should Have Power to Say 'Enough'

New York -- In testimony before the House Aviation Subcommittee, Rep. Steve Rothman (D-NJ9) today urged for "reasonable limits" to control noise and congestion at local airports. The subcommittee held a field hearing in New York to discuss air traffic congestion in the region.

Rothman related the situation at LaGuardia Airport to the one facing Teterboro Airport. Rothman has been a supporter of the slot lottery at LaGuardia Airport that reduced delays by more than half since it was originally imposed in December, 2000 and was conceived of by the Port Authority, which also manages Teterboro Airport. Rothman said the FAA should show similar discretion to local policymakers and allow measures to curb aircraft noise at Teterboro, where flight operations have risen by nearly 60 percent in recent years.

"Teterboro Airport, like LaGuardia Airport, run by the Port Authority, should be able to say "enough,"" Rothman said. "We should be able to enact reasonable limits."

"There must be a place in our decision-making for those who live under the flight paths of large and noisy jets," Rothman added. "We need a balance between commerce and quality of life so that each are served on an even basis. Where we protect basic rights like getting a good night's sleep or enjoying a picnic in your yard on a beautiful summer day."

Rothman also questioned Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Administrator Jane Garvey about progress at Teterboro Airport. He also discussed increasing the role of Stewart International Airport in Stewart, NY with Garvey. Rothman has worked with New York's congressional delegation to expand Stewart- located 55 miles north of New York City- and take pressure off airports such as Teterboro and LaGuardia.

"One creative approach to reduce congestion and noise in our region is by expanding the role of Stewart International Airport," Rothman said.

Testifying before the House Aviation Subcommittee is part of Rothman's continuing campaign to give local communities the power to set reasonable controls over area airports. Rothman is the author of H.R. 299, the "Aircraft Noise Reduction Act," that would ban the planes with the noisiest engines from flying into crowded metropolitan areas. He was one of the first to call for a flight curfew at Teterboro Airport between 11pm-6am to give residents relief.

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