

## Rothman Announces \$ 8.5 Million for NJ/NY Airspace Redesign

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Requests that FAA Make Noise Reduction Primary Goal of Effort

Washington, DC -- Congressman Steve Rothman (D-NJ) announced today the House Appropriations Committee has earmarked \$8.5 million for the continuation of work on the New Jersey/New York Metropolitan Area Airspace Redesign. Rothman, a member of the powerful Appropriations Committee, also requested that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) ensure its redesign efforts make aircraft noise reduction a primary goal.

"I am proud to secure this funding to redesign the airspace over our area, which are the busiest and noisiest skies in the nation," Rothman said. "This ensures the effort to make the skies over New Jersey safer and quieter can go forward as the first in the nation. I'm looking forward to the day when I can both see and hear the results. Nothing would make me and thousands of other people in Northern New Jersey happier than the sounds of silence."

Rothman has been working with the New Jersey Coalition Against Aircraft Noise (NJCANN) to improve the redesign process to reduce aircraft noise. Recently, Rothman sent a letter to the FAA asking for a number of elements to be included in the redesign efforts, including:

- A primary goal of the redesign must be aircraft noise reduction;
- Ocean routing, higher altitudes and other noise relief measures;
- The FAA should analyze the noise impacts of each alternative using several noise metrics.

"Residents of Northern New Jersey, particularly those living near Teterboro Airport, are currently subjected to an unreasonable barrage of aircraft noise," Rothman said. "It is vital that the FAA make aircraft noise reduction a major focus of their redesign efforts."

Rothman has been very active in making sure that the airspace redesign process moves forward. As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, the inclusion \$8.5 million in the FY 2002 Transportation Appropriations bill is his latest effort. The bill is expected to be taken up by the full House later this month.

Last year, Rothman successfully lobbied FAA Administrator Jane Garvey to make our region the first redesign in the nation. He noted that his region's aircraft noise problems stem not only from the presence of Teterboro Airport, but from the fact that the airspace is the busiest in the country.

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