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Boeing Would Violate Weight Limit in Place Since 1967

Washington, DC -- Congressman Steve Rothman (D-NJ9) and a bipartisan coalition of elected officials and community leaders joined together today to oppose efforts to land the Boeing Business Jet (BBJ) at Teterboro Airport. Although the weight limit at Teterboro is 100,000 pounds, the BBJ weighs up to 170,000 pounds- 70 percent over the weight limit. "This jet represents a serious safety hazard, because Teterboro Airport is not designed or equipped to handle aircraft of over 100,000 pounds," Rothman said. "Since 1967, the 100,000 pound weight limit has been in effect. Especially given the massive increase in air traffic and air noise since then, it makes no sense to weaken that weight limit today," he added.

Today, Boeing is meeting with the Port Authority (PA) and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to encourage a waiver of the 100,000 pound limit which has been in place at Teterboro since 1967. These meetings are the continuation of Boeing's efforts of the past several years to get local consent to fly the BBJ into at Teterboro Airport. Rothman has held several discussion over the past few years with the PA to keep this jet out of Teterboro.

Boeing's newest efforts come despite serious community-wide opposition, and fears that not only will a waiver allow the BBJ to use Teterboro, but that it will set off a "slippery slope" effect, allowing even larger aircraft to seek exemptions to the weight limit.

"We do not want the Boeing Business Jet at Teterboro, and we will do everything in our power to stop it from coming here," Rothman said. "We ask the FAA to "Just Say No" to the Boeing Business Jet. If Boeing has its way and the FAA takes the first step down a slippery slope to allowing these heavier 737s at Teterboro, what will be next, 747s?"

Rothman has met with FAA Administrator Jane Garvey, and sent a letter to her voicing his opposition to the larger aircraft. He has also sent a letter to President Bush opposing the jet at Teterboro. Rothman urged concerned residents to send letters as well, letting Garvey and President Bush know the depth of community opposition to Boeing's plan.

Among members of the bipartisan coalition present were Bergen County Executive Pat Schuber; Bergen County Board of Freeholders Chairman Douglas Bern; Senator Byron Baer (D-Dist. 37); Assemblywoman Rose Heck (R-Dist. 38); Moonachie Mayor Fred Dressel, Representing Teterboro Aircraft Noise Abatement Advisers Committee (TANAAC); Hasbrouck Heights Mayor Bob Torre; Hasbrouck Heights Councilman Marlene Verrastro; Little Ferry Councilman Mauro Ragueso; Paul Griffo, Representing Alliance of Municipalities Concerning Air Traffic (AMCAT); A.J. Joshi, Representing Little Ferry Environmental Committee.

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