

Congressman Rothman Calls for a 25% Cut in Flights at Teterboro Airport News Conference

For Immediate Release

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Rothman Calls For 25% Cut in the Number of
Flights at Teterboro Airport

-- Also Urges Expanded Mandatory Evening Curfew, banning Stage 2 Jet Engines, Increased Landing Fees and Greater Noise Restrictions --

(Teterboro, NJ) - Following today's accident at Teterboro Airport, Congressman Steve Rothman (D-Fair Lawn) is asking for a 25% reduction in the amount of air traffic in and out of the facility. Congressman Rothman is calling on the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANYNJ) to immediately reduce the number of flights at Teterboro by placing an annual cap on airport traffic.

Rothman, who was at the crash site within hours of today's incident, said that now is the time for the PANYNJ to take this action. "We should also take this opportunity to press for the creation of an expanded mandatory evening curfew, the banning of Stage 2 jet aircraft, increased landing fees, and placing greater noise restrictions at the airport," said Rothman.

Congressman Rothman noted that the annual number of flights into and out of the Airport had leapt from 158,143 to 202,400 since 1994, representing an increase of 28 percent. In addition, the Congressman said, "the character of Teterboro has changed drastically over those years... the proportion of jet flights has more than doubled, to almost 71 percent and jets are usually larger, faster and carry more fuel than their prop-driven counterparts. With such dramatic increases in the number of flights and the drastic shift to more and more jet flights, all of us who live and work around the airport are left to wonder when our luck is going to run out, resulting in a devastating accident. I cannot and I will not stand by and allow my constituents to become victims of this increasingly dangerous situation. That is why this reduction must happen immediately."

Congressman Rothman has also cited National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) statistics showing that the type of aircraft using Teterboro Airport - are far more dangerous than commercial airliners. Those figures show that a passenger traveling on either an on-demand charter jet or a general aviation aircraft has a 500 times greater chance of being killed on a single trip than a person traveling by commercial airliner. "When applying those percentages to the number of flights at Teterboro, we should on average have two fatalities every year. Right now we are beating those odds but eventually probability will catch up with us -- which is why our best option is to reduce the number of flights as much as possible and to do it as soon as possible," wrote Congressman Rothman.

