

Congressman Rothman Continues Efforts To Reduce Flights At

For Immediate Release

Contact: Bob Decheine

Phone: 202-225-5061

Congressman Rothman Continues Efforts To Reduce Flights At Teterboro By 25%

--Calls For Stage 2 Engine Ban and Permanent Evening Curfew At Teterboro Airport--

TRENTON, NJ- Continuing his efforts to reduce flights at Teterboro Airport by 25 percent, Congressman Steve Rothman (D-Fair Lawn) today released a statement at the New Jersey State Senate Legislative Oversight Committee hearing on Teterboro Airport in Trenton. With the number of accidents at Teterboro Airport this year, Rothman stressed that it is now more important than ever to reduce flights by 25 percent, ban Stage 2 jet aircrafts-- the nosiest planes now using the airport, and put into affect an evening curfew.

Rothman noted that Teterboro Airport is no longer the sleepy little general aviation reliever airport it was designed to be. The annual number of flights into and out of the Teterboro Airport over the past ten years has increased by 28 percent, from 158,000 to over 200,000, and there is still pressure by the airline industry, airplane manufacturers, and certain government agencies to increase those numbers even more. Congressman Rothman wrote, "We can't prevent all accidents at our airport, just as we can't prevent all accidents on a racetrack, but what we can do is limit the number of vehicles involved. While this won't eliminate the chance of an accident, we can make it less likely that a fully loaded, fully fueled jet will crash, God forbid, into a residential area or a school bus near the airport."

Rothman thanked the Chairman of Port Authority of New York and New York, Anthony Coscia, for his organization's help in the past and stressed that more needs to be done to avoid having Teterboro become the 4th major airport in the New York/New Jersey metropolitan area alongside JFK, Newark and La Guardia Airports. He highlighted the successful efforts with the Port Authority in the past, which included banning scheduled charter service (from Indigo and Lanier Airlines), the elimination of Stage 1 aircraft at the airport, and keeping the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) from overturning Teterboros's 37-year old, 100,000 pound weight limit -- which has kept the 170,000 pound Boeing Business Jet from using Teterboro Airport.

"I look forward to working with Chairman Coscia and the other highly dedicated and qualified individuals at the Port Authority to institute the immediate 25% reduction in flights at Teterboro Airport, the banning of Stage 2 aircraft and a mandatory nighttime curfew," said Rothman. "These and other changes at Teterboro Airport are essential to improving the safety and quality of life for the tens of thousands of Northern New Jersey residents who live around the airport, travel by it and reside under the airport's flight paths."

Rothman also thanked the members of the Legislative Oversight Committee, including Chairman Paul Sarlo for continuing to improve the quality of life for all New Jersey residents. "We've been lucky at Teterboro," Rothman said to the members of the Legislative Oversight Committee. "According to the National Transportation Safety Board, given the number of flights there, Teterboro Airport should average two fatalities per year! And yet---while there have been numerous plane crashes, there hasn't been a fatality at Teterboro since 2002. To say that it is only a matter of time before Teterboro Airport's luck runs out is simply an expression of the law of probability."

#