



City of Phoenix

November 23, 2015

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(Highlights, footnotes and minor edits may have been added by aiREFORM)

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
113 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Appropriations
503 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing
and Urban Development
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing
and Urban Development
728 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Honorable Senators,

As you continue your work to enact the Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) Appropriations bill, we urge you to retain the language of the amendment offered by Senators McCain and Flake, which was unanimously agreed to during Senate floor consideration of the bill. This amendment will help ensure that affected communities, nationwide, including the Phoenix-Mesa region, have the opportunity to be heard – to have a voice – on proposed flightpath changes being considered by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) within the framework of its existing categorical exclusion authority. It is imperative that this language be included as part of the final THUD appropriations, whether it be a freestanding bill or as part of an omnibus.

As the FAA moves forward on implementation of NextGen, it is important that the FAA's review is transparent and fully responsive to what impacts any proposed changes may have on the affected communities and seeks to eliminate or effectively reduce any significant human and environmental impacts. In the case of the Phoenix-Mesa region, as a result of the lack of opportunity in the FAA review process, we have thousands of households who are exposed to aircraft noise due to these new flight paths and our restored historic residential neighborhoods are now adversely impacted. Communities throughout the region have been impacted and have expressed deep concerns about the lack of accountability in the FAA's process. In addition, there are a number of other commercial and general aviation airports in the region that are impacted by similar FAA actions. We view this amendment as a starting point in addressing these collective concerns as well.

A statutory resolution is immediately needed. The McCain-Flake amendment ensures that the FAA's review process will provide adequate opportunity by an affected

region to voice any concerns it may have. Thank you for your immediate attention and assistance on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Greg Stanton
Mayor
City of Phoenix, AZ



John Giles
Mayor
City of Mesa, AZ



Mark Mitchell
Mayor
City of Tempe, AZ



W.J. "Jim" Lane
Mayor
City of Scottsdale, AZ



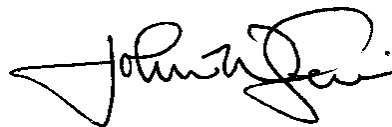
Jerry P. Weiers
Mayor
City of Glendale, AZ



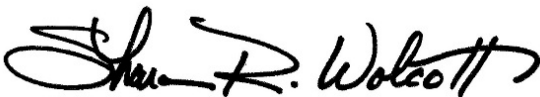
Georgia Lord
Mayor
City of Goodyear, AZ



Michael Collins
Town of Paradise Valley, AZ



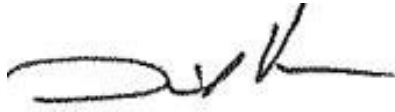
John Lewis
Mayor
Town of Gilbert, AZ



Sharon Wolcott
Mayor
City of Surprise, AZ



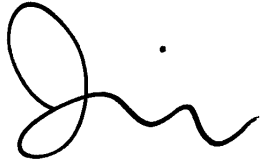
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Jim Waring
Councilman
City of Phoenix, AZ



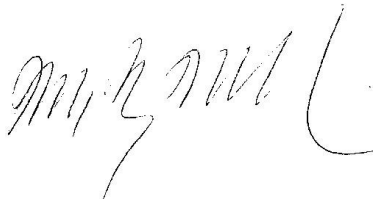
Bill Gates
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Laura Pastor
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City of Phoenix, AZ



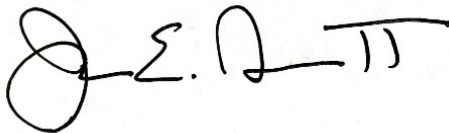
Sal DiCiccio
Councilman
City of Phoenix, AZ



Michael Nowakowski
Councilman
City of Phoenix, AZ



Kate Gallego
Councilwoman
City of Phoenix, AZ



Jim Bennett
Aviation Director
City of Phoenix, AZ

Cc: The Honorable John McCain
The Honorable Jeff Flake