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February 25, 2008

Bobby Sturgell
Acting Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20591

Dear Acting Administrator Sturgell:

There seems to be some misunderstanding on my position regarding the consolidation of the BPT TRACON into Houston's I90 TRACON. Let me be very clear, I am totally opposed to the FAA's decision to consolidate this facility.

At a public meeting last August, the FAA agreed to hold stakeholder meetings BEFORE a final decision was made on consolidation. Further, when I met with you and Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison last November, you made it clear that you would evaluate the consolidation of BPT and I90. However, the FAA seems to have already made a decision before these were allowed to happen which you are attempting now to shore up support for to "move in the direction of consolidation".

Many issues remain regarding how safety and service would be managed. Issues that could have been resolved already had meetings with stakeholders taken place and had the FAA desired to truly listen. The consolidation is opposed by local elected officials, airport personnel, pilots, air traffic controllers, and most importantly, the citizens of the community. It is incomprehensible that the FAA in your terms would "move in the direction to consolidate" when the public is totally opposed to this decision and has had little if any opportunity to have their questions properly addressed during meetings with stakeholders.

Last year, Rep. Alcee Hastings (D-FL) and I offered an amendment to H.R. 3074, the FY08 Transportation Appropriations bill, which prohibited the FAA from consolidating or planning to consolidate a TRACON. That bipartisan amendment overwhelmingly passed the U.S. House of Representatives, 268 to 158, demonstrating the will of the U.S. House of Representatives that no federal dollars be used in the consolidation of TRACONS. In addition, the FAA Reauthorization Bill, H.R. 2881, also overwhelmingly passed the U.S. House of Representatives and required that stakeholders be involved before any consolidation takes place. In spite of the people's will, the FAA continues to "move in the direction of consolidation". Let me assure you that I will again

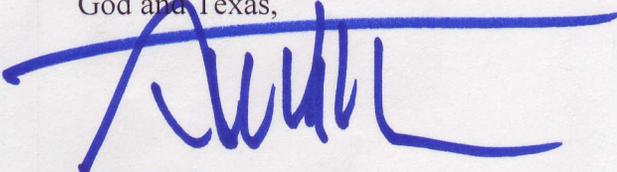
offer an amendment this year in the U.S. House of Representatives to not allow federal funds to be used in consolidations.

After the Palm Springs (PSP) TRACON was consolidated with LAX (once again in spite of the will of Congress) there was a fatality at PSP. While it cannot be ruled that this consolidation had something to do with the accident, it also cannot be ruled out. These are the very concerns the community around BPT has. I intend to ask for an independent investigation to see if the consolidation there was the reason or part of the reason for that fatality. Until those reasons are known, it is imperative this consolidation be stopped.

As I stated to you in my meeting last November, I would like to hold a follow-up public meeting similar to the one I held last August and invite the FAA and other stakeholders before any consolidation takes place; preferably in late March or early April. Please let me know which dates will not work for you so that I may plan this event. The public needs to know exactly what has and has not occurred since this last meeting.

Once again, it is imperative that the FAA cease its "move toward consolidation" since issues regarding safety and service have not been addressed.

God and Texas,



TED POE
Member of Congress
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