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Congress of the United States
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Senior Whip

July 15, 2016

Glen A. Martin
Regional Administrator
FAA Western-Pacific Region
P.O. Box 92007
Los Angeles, CA 90009

Dear Mr. Martin:

My understanding is that the FAA is contemplating the deletion of the OFFSHORE Departure from San Francisco International Airport (SFO). If this is true, I wish to go on record as respectfully and vociferously objecting.

The OFFSHORE Departure is the type of routing that can substantially reduce the noise impact in Pacifica, Montara, Moss Beach and El Granada. Repeatedly, my staff has emphasized to you and to the FAA in general that this type of route is what is needed as a concrete way to reverse the mistake of concentrating flights over Pacifica and communities south of Pacifica as a consequence of NextGen.

It is also my understanding that the OFFSHORE Departure is considered an "old fashioned" way of managing air traffic because it is not an RNAV procedure, but there is nothing to preclude its continued use at this time. I respectfully suggest that the OFFSHORE routing can be easily converted into an RNAV procedure. It's self-evident that any choice to eliminate the OFFSHORE Departure will be a breach of the trust that exists between the community of Pacifica and areas to the south, my office, and the FAA because once a procedure is abolished it takes years to get a new one approved. It is breathtaking to contemplate such a step by the FAA despite the extended conversations that my staff has had with the FAA about the need to mitigate the stunning concentration of noise events that arose as a consequence of NextGen. I have also told residents of Pacifica that the OFFSHORE routing should be given serious consideration as a template for future southbound departures because of its relatively lower noise impact over land.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter. Please reply with your written assurance that the OFFSHORE Departure is not going to be abolished, that it is a candidate for being upgraded to an RNAV procedure and that a similar routing for other future departures will be given full and fair consideration.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jackie Speier", written in a cursive style.

Jackie Speier

JS/bp-kw

cc: Michael Huerta, Administrator, Federal Aviation Administration
Cliff Lentz, Chair, SFO Airport/Community Roundtable
Sue Digre, Mayor, Pacifica