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COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT
AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-0533

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Michael P. Huerta
Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Administrator Huerta:

I am highly disturbed by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)'s Interim Cease and Desist Order that stops Santa Monica from changing two fixed-base operators (FBO) at the Santa Monica Airport. The FAA's Order--which essentially mandates that Santa Monica use two specific private sector companies for FBO operations--is factually incorrect and appears to contradict FAA practice concerning the operation of small airports.

In the Order, the agency incorrectly stated that the city of Santa Monica "chose not to oppose" judicial motions filed by the two fixed-base operators, American Flyers, Inc. and Atlantic Aviation FBO, Inc. In fact, the city clearly opposed the motions in court filings and no orders were issued from the motions by the FBOs. The FAA's ignorance of these facts shows the agency did not understand the situation at Santa Monica airport prior to issuing the Order.

Even more troubling than the FAA's ignorance is that the Order contradicts the FAA's own guidance allowing airport sponsors to exclusively provide aeronautical services. The FAA's Order prevents the city, the operator of Santa Monica Airport, from seeking to serve as its own FBO providing various aeronautical services including fueling services. The FAA, however, specifically gave cities such as Santa Monica the right to be its own FBO. Under FAA Order 5190.6B, ¶8.5, "*the airport sponsor may elect to provide any or all of the aeronautical services at its airport, and to be the exclusive provider of those services.*" The FAA is clearly ignoring the authority it has given to cities to operate their own FBOs.

The mission of the FAA is "to provide the safest, most efficient aerospace system in the world." The FAA's mission is not to be a shill for corporations. I call on the FAA to live up to its mission by rescinding its overreaching order and, instead, work with the city of Santa Monica.

Thank you for your time regarding this matter. I look forward to hearing the FAA's response.

Sincerely,



Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress