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Honorable Eliot Engel
US House of Representatives
2161 Rayburn Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Engel:

On behalf of the National Business Aviation Association, I am writing today to express our concerns with H.R. 2328 and to address operations at Westchester County Airport. NBAA and our member companies are committed to working with communities and airports to ensure that we operate a safe, efficient and environmentally compatible national aviation system. However, we oppose any attempt to create local exemptions to Federal law. Our national aviation system and our economies are based on the mobility of people and goods throughout the country. That mobility cannot safely and efficiently occur, if airports across the country establish a "patchwork quilt" of different standards.

H.R. 2328, language crafted specifically for Westchester County Airport, would represent an unraveling of a well established national system of airports. Specifically, this vital airport is a part of our National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS). The national plan identifies over 3,300 existing airports that are significant to present and future U.S. national transportation requirements; and it also supports established strategic goals for safety, system efficiency, and environmental compatibility by identifying airport specific improvements. Environmental study evaluations specific to individual airports are federally eligible for funding, and serve to protect and enhance communities and the natural environment affected by air transportation. All such processes are transparent, allowing for full community participation.

In 1990, the Congress approved the "Airport Noise and Capacity Act of 1990" (ANCA), which codified a national noise policy balancing the interests of communities and operators with the needs of a national aviation system.

While we do not support exemptions to Federal law, local airports, communities and operators can and do work together to develop successful local programs. For example, Westchester County Airport officials have worked with the Westchester Aviation Association as well as commercial and other general aviation operators to implement voluntary guidelines to address community noise complaints. These longstanding voluntary policies have been very successful and remain in place today. Through existing local programs like this, members of the community and airport users work together to demonstrate that quiet flying is good business and makes a difference at Westchester County Airport for the entire community.

If the Westchester County Board of Legislators determines that further action is required, one option the County has at its disposal, is to initiate a new study prescribed by regulation administered by FAA (Part 150) entitled, "Airport Noise Compatibility Planning." Two primary products of the study are noise exposure mapping and the formulation of a noise compatibility plan. Specifically, this study is intended to identify and reduce existing non-compatible land uses around airports.

Another equally important study goal is to prevent the introduction of additional non-compatible land uses in the vicinity of the airport.

In addition, should the County feel compelled to consider actual airport access restrictions, the County has

~~a further obligation to consider the same as outlined under federal regulation Part 161 which requires~~

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