



## City of Phoenix

November 23, 2015

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



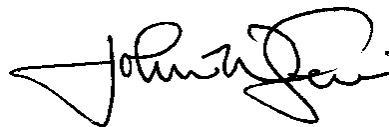
Jerry P. Weiers  
Mayor  
City of Glendale, AZ



Georgia Lord  
Mayor  
City of Goodyear, AZ



Michael Collins  
Town of Paradise Valley, AZ



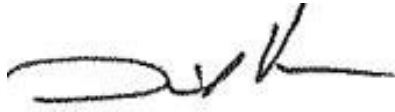
John Lewis  
Mayor  
Town of Gilbert, AZ



Sharon Wolcott  
Mayor  
City of Surprise, AZ



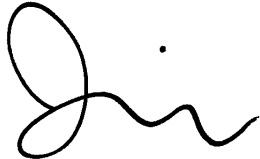
Kenn Weise  
Mayor  
City of Avondale, AZ



Daniel Valenzuela  
Vice Mayor  
City of Phoenix, AZ



Thelda Williams  
Councilwoman  
City of Phoenix, AZ




Jim Waring  
Councilman  
City of Phoenix, AZ



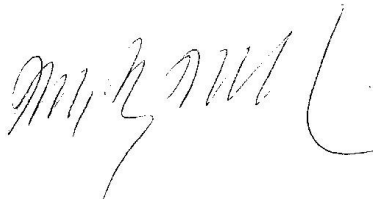
Bill Gates  
Councilman  
City of Phoenix, AZ



Laura Pastor  
Councilwoman  
City of Phoenix, AZ



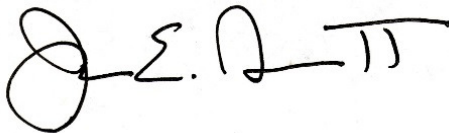
Sal DiCiccio  
Councilman  
City of Phoenix, AZ



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