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April 29, 2019

Mr. Daniel K. Elwell
Acting Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Acting Administrator Elwell:

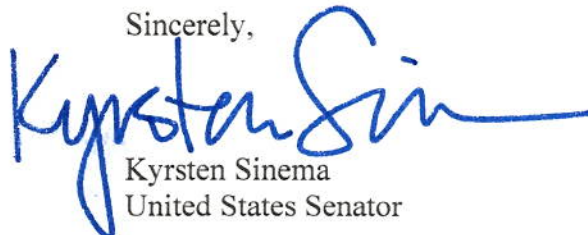
As the ranking member on the Senate Commerce Subcommittee on Aviation and Space, I write regarding the FAA's NextGen eastbound departure routes from Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport (Sky Harbor). I acknowledge the work the FAA has done to comply with the 2017 lawsuit settlement with the City of Phoenix and historic neighborhoods and the FAA's willingness to hold three "Step 2" workshops in Phoenix to hear community feedback regarding proposed airspace changes.

As you know, following the FAA's decision to change flight paths to and from Sky Harbor in September 2014, the City of Phoenix and historic neighborhoods filed suit against the FAA, alleging FAA failed to solicit input from affected communities. The D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals found for the plaintiffs, agreeing the FAA had not appropriately solicited community feedback. In a settlement, the FAA agreed to a two-step plan. The first step was to re-route aircraft to the pre-2014 routes. The second step is to solicit and thoroughly consider community feedback prior to developing new procedures.

I am concerned the FAA is not fully engaging with all stakeholders affected by Sky Harbor flight procedures, particularly those residents impacted by eastbound departures. I urge the FAA to establish and continue dialogue with elected leaders representing communities affected by eastbound flight procedures and to continue working on finding alternatives to lessen the noise impacts on the residents under the eastbound flight paths.

I will continue to work with the FAA and communities on these important issues that impact Arizona families. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator

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