



## Memorandum

Community Relations

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**DATE:** February 11, 2009

**TO:** Mayor and Council

**FROM:** Amber Wakeman, Government Relations Director (x8824)

**THROUGH:** Shelley Hearn, Community Relations Manager (x8906)

**SUBJECT:** TAVCO Letter to Federal Delegation

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In follow up to Oddvar Tveit's February 6 memo to Mayor and Council, attached please find a copy of the TAVCO Commission letter. TAVCO is requesting Council send the attached letter regarding stimulus monies for noise mitigation and monies to modernize air traffic control equipment at Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport to Congressman Harry Mitchell, Senator Jon Kyl and Senator John McCain. This issue will go before Council at the February 19<sup>th</sup> Issue Review Session.

If you have any comments or questions please let me know.

Thank you.

Attachment

February 11, 2009

Dear Congressman:

The Tempe Aviation Commission is charged with giving advice to the Mayor and Council of Tempe on aircraft noise and other issues related to the operations at the Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport as they affect the citizens of Tempe.

#### 1. Stimulus Monies for Noise Mitigation

The Commission has advised the Council of the need to bring to your attention the opportunity to secure funding for noise mitigation for the most aviation noise-impacted areas in Tempe. Additional monies used for noise mitigation would help homeowners, help stabilize neighborhoods, and would employ local people and could thus serve as a long-term beneficial stimulus project. Only single family homes have been deemed eligible to receive Residential Sound Mitigation Services from Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport. The CFR 14 (FAR) Part 150 program is financed by up to 80% of the costs from the Airport Improvement Program and administered by the FAA.

The Commission has recommended that mitigation services be offered to multi-family homes and public facilities such as schools and community buildings inside the 65 DNL noise exposure contour for the airport. Because of the slowdown in airline activity and subsequent reductions in airport revenues, the update to the Part 150 program scheduled to start next year has been postponed. It will therefore take years before we can expect to see an expansion of the services to include multi-family homes in Tempe. Because the administrative resources the airport currently has are dedicated to successfully plan and complete noise insulation upgrades to single family homes, federal funding of upgrades to multi-family homes in the airport's most noise-impacted areas should be considered as part of an economic stimulus package. This funding would help ease the unprecedented slowdown in the Arizona home building industry, would provide long awaited relief for many Tempe residents close to Sky Harbor International Airport, and would stabilize neighborhoods that provide important attainable housing for Tempeans.

#### 2. Monies to Modernize Air Traffic Control Equipment at Gateway

We are encouraged by the support you have provided to development projects at the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport. The airport needs to have modern navigational equipment and air traffic procedures to become a more regional

and commercial service facility and better serve Arizona aviation. Because of developments outside Gateway's airport fence, the old analogue ASR 8 radar needs to be moved. The use of federal funds to find a new location for the ASR 8 and keep its linkage to a system of more modern radars in the valley, is not an optimal solution for the Gateway airport. Gateway needs radar coverage to facilitate instrument operations. With the ASR 8 reinstalled, Gateway will become linked to old air traffic control technology for the foreseeable future, and become disadvantaged relative to other airports in the region. The new north valley ASR 11 radar gives PHX TRACON digital signals to separate traffic at Deer Valley and Scottsdale airports through high resolution monitoring equipment. Also the ASR 9 at Luke Airport gives PHX TRACON digital signals to monitor air traffic at Glendale and Goodyear airports.

Because the upgrade of air navigation equipment is a lengthy process, and new technologies like ADS-B and LAAS are coming. We hope you can assist in providing Gateway Tower much needed access to more updated air traffic control technology. This would provide Gateway the necessary tools to control and develop its airways as well as first class service to its current users and new airline customers in the future.

Our Sincere Regards,

The Tempe City Council

CC:

Danny Murphy, Aviation Director, City of Phoenix  
Lynn Kusy, Executive Director Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport  
Lynne Osmus, FAA Acting Administrator  
U.S. Secretary of Transportation, Ray LaHood