

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

Representing America's Finest

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Executive Director

November 22, 2011

The Honorable John Mica
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Rockefeller
531 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Mica and Chairman Rockefeller:

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), representing 241,000 rank-and-file police officers from across the United States, I would like respectfully ask you to consider language in the FAA Air Transportation Modernization and Safety Improvement Act (S. 223) affecting helicopter noise pollution in residential areas.

Senator Schumer offered an amendment, The Controlling Helicopter Noise Pollution In Residential Areas that was adopted to the FAA Reauthorization bill. Section 740 sub-point three states; "the Administrator may provide an exception to any requirements with respect to reducing helicopter noise pollution in residential areas for helicopter activity related to emergency, law enforcement, or military activities".

We believe the language needs to be changed so as not to have an adverse effect on law enforcement. NAPO proposes that the language of the legislation be changed from "may provide" to "shall provide".

NAPO agrees with the intent of this amendment; it is important for helicopter operators to fly safely while minimizing noise impact on the surrounding communities. Equally important is the ability of first responders to preserve public safety.

NAPO appreciates your efforts in addressing the helicopter noise problem while at the same time remaining conscious of the duties conducted by local law enforcement. It is NAPO's sincere hope that the provision exempting law enforcement can be strengthened. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, or NAPO's Director of Government Affairs, Rachel Hedge, at (703) 549-0775.

Sincerely,

William J. Johnson
Executive Director

CC: Congressman Nick Rahall
Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison
Senator Charles Schumer