



U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
Washington, DC 20515

Don Young
Chairman

James L. Oberstar
Ranking Democratic Member

September 8, 2003

Lloyd A. Jones, Chief of Staff
Elizabeth Megginson, Chief Counsel

David Heymsfeld, Democratic Chief of Staff

The Honorable Marion C. Blakey
Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20591

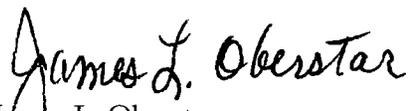
Dear Administrator Blakey:

I do not understand an assertion made in your press release of September 4, 2003, criticizing those who object to the provision in the Conference Report on FAA Reauthorization, which would allow FAA to replace air traffic controllers at 69 towers with contract employees. In your statement you say "FAA believes it is highly irresponsible to jeopardize legislation that provides critical funding for our entire aviation system in an attempt to add thousands of new employees to the federal payroll."

So far as I am aware, those who object to the replacement of air traffic controllers at 69 towers are not proposing to add any new air traffic controllers, much less "thousands". We are only seeking to have air traffic control services at the 69 towers continue to be provided by the approximately 960 employees now providing this service.

Please explain the basis for your contention that those who object to the conference report are seeking to add thousands of new employees to the federal payroll.

Sincerely,


James L. Oberstar
Ranking Democratic Member