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December 13, 2003

The Honorable Marion C. Blakey  
Administrator  
Federal Aviation Administration  
800 Independence Avenue, SW.  
Washington, D.C. 20591

Dear Administrator Blakey:

I am writing to request that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) hold public meetings to fully assess the potential impact of its National Air Tour Safety Standards notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) (Docket No. FAA-1998-4521).

I am a licensed general aviation pilot, and I have concerns with the FAA's recent NPRM proposal that would increase the requirement for minimum flight time for private pilots participating in charitable sight seeing events from 200 hours to 500. Additionally, the FAA would require flights to land at the same airport from which they take off and stay within 25 miles of the airport. Limiting pilots to four charity events a year will certainly reduce the pool of available pilots to help in charity and fundraising flights and will be damaging to small aviation businesses. In total, this NPRM could potentially affect every general aviation pilot and professional, who participate in charitable sightseeing events and tours under FAR Part 91.

It is important that the FAA evaluate this policy change by hearing directly from the general aviation community in a public forum. A series of public meetings will be an excellent mechanism to assist the FAA in its full analysis of its affect on aviators.

Thank you for your consideration in to this matter, and I look forward to your response. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Darrell Issa", written over a horizontal line.

Darrell Issa  
Member of Congress