

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 28, 2006

The Honorable Marion C. Blakey  
Administrator  
Federal Aviation Administration  
800 Independence Avenue, SW  
Room 1022  
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Administrator Blakey:

We are writing in strong opposition to any plan by the Federal Aviation Administration to allow commercial planes to fly over the Indian Point nuclear power plants. We urge you to reject this plan and designate the airspace within 10 miles of Indian Point as a no-fly-zone.

The Indian Point nuclear power facility is in a growing and heavily populated area situated very close to New York City. Scheduling regular commercial flights over Indian Point would be irresponsible. We feel strongly that this proposal plays into the hands of terrorists who continue to seek ways to harm our nation. It is imperative to keep Indian Point clear of air traffic by designating the airspace around this potential target as a no-fly-zone.

We know for a fact that plans to attack U.S. nuclear power plants were found in the caves of Afghanistan where Al Qaeda operatives were hiding. In fact, during the 9/11 attacks, one of the planes that struck the World Trade Center flew directly over Indian Point. Shortly after the 9/11 attacks, Governor George Pataki commissioned a study of the evacuation plan for the communities surrounding Indian Point by former Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Director James Lee Witt. The study found that the evacuation plan is fatally flawed. The report determined that "the current radiological response system and capabilities were not adequate to overcome their combined weight and protect the people from an unacceptable dose of radiation in the event of a release from Indian Point..." In the event of an attack or even an accident at Indian Point, surrounding residents will find themselves in complete grid-lock and will not be able to safely evacuate the region.

We urge you to withdraw or modify this proposal to increase air traffic over Indian Point. We firmly believe the Northeast Air Traffic Corridor can be safely redesigned without expanding the risks associated with this nuclear power facility.

Sincerely,

  
Eliot L. Engel

  
Nita M. Lowey

  
Maurice D. Hinchey