

Prof. William Malm and Jutta Malm
5133 Doral Court
Ann Arbor MI 48108

March 10, 2009

Dear Mr. Hieftje,

We are writing to express our strenuous objections to spending federal and state taxpayer dollars to extend the primary runway at Ann Arbor Municipal Airport and urge you to intervene during these critical times to stop this wasteful project.

While the city of Ann Arbor has argued that the proposed 800-foot runway extension would provide safety benefits, a closer examination of the record shows that the current 3,500-foot runway has had only five incidents in almost 600,000 landings during the last eight years, a record experts consider quite good for an airport with as significant a number of student pilots as Ann Arbor has. In reality, the extended runway is an invitation to more, larger and heavier aircraft – including more jets and charters coming to Ann Arbor – posing substantial noise and safety risks to our neighboring community, which surrounds the airport, as well as residents of Ann Arbor along the airport's primary flight path.

The proposed change would bring planes dangerously low and much closer to our homes, place the airport's boundary fences directly across from homes on the west end of the field, and raise the noise exposure to our homes substantially.

As residents of that surrounding community, constituents of yours, and taxpayers who would be paying for this airport extension, we strongly object to this use of our tax dollars. It is especially troublesome that these dollars could be granted to the City of Ann Arbor by ONLY the vote of Ann Arbor elected officials, when most Ann Arbor residents will incur none of the consequential results of this decision and pay almost none of the cost of the airport preparatory studies and construction, 97.5 percent of which is funded by federal and state tax dollars. This is a poor use of taxpayer's monies when a superb airfield alternative already exists – constructed with federal and state taxpayers dollars - just five miles away at Willow Run for these larger aircraft, which makes any extension of the Ann Arbor field both unnecessary and wasteful. For that reason, we urge you to intervene and help steer these tax dollars to better use.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely, *William Malm*

William Malm and Jutta Malm

Jutta Malm