

Jean E. Smith
4036 Boulder Pond Dr.
Ann Arbor, MI 48108

March 10, 2009

Mayor John Hieftje
City of Ann Arbor City Council
P.O. Box 8647
Ann Arbor, MI 48107

Dear Mayor Hieftje

I am writing to express my strenuous objections to spending substantial federal and state taxpayer dollars to extend the primary runway at Ann Arbor Municipal Airport and urge you to intervene during these critical economic 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 my 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 home substantially.

As a resident of that surrounding community, a constituent of yours, and one of the taxpayers who would be paying for this airport extension, I strongly object to this use of my 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. This is poor use of taxpayer monies when a superb airfield already exists just five miles away at Willow Run for these large aircraft. I urge you to intervene and help steer these tax dollars to better use.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Jean E. Smith
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