



TOWN OF NEW CASTLE

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August 15, 2017

Supervisor

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Town Administrator

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Hon. Robert P. Astorino
Westchester County Executive
148 Martine Avenue, 9th Floor
White Plains, NY 10601

Hon. Michael B. Kaplowitz
Chairman of the Board
Westchester County Board of Legislators
148 Martine Avenue, 8th Floor
White Plains, NY 10601
Email or Mail:

Westchester County Department of Public Works & Transportation
ATTN: Airport Draft Master Plan Comments
148 Martine Ave, Room 518
White Plains, NY 10601

RE: Westchester County Airport Privatization / Master Plan

Dear County Executive Astorino and Chairman Kaplowitz:

We are writing to you in regards to the proposal to privatize the Westchester County Airport.

We appreciate the financial benefits of public-private partnerships. We understand the benefit that Westchester County residents could realize from the airport revenues. And we certainly understand the need to find new revenues to pay for the services our residents need and expect without placing extra burdens on taxpayers.

However, we have many serious concerns regarding any airport privatization and expansion. Our first priority must be protecting the quality of life for the residents of New Castle and other communities. We are concerned that privatization will negatively impact the environment by causing increased air, water and noise pollution in Westchester County and the surrounding region. We are also concerned about changes that will negatively affect residential property values in our community.

To be very clear: we do not support an increase in the number of flights. We do not support larger aircraft. We do not support an increase in the maximum number of passengers allowed in the Terminal Use Agreement. We do not support an increase in the total capacity of the airport's runways, taxiways, ramps, gates, hangars, terminal, motor vehicle parking areas or access.

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We would respectfully request that any agreement include a no expansion policy and keep in place any and all restrictions in the current Terminal Use Agreement. The current footprint of the airport must be maintained. The number of gates must remain at four. The current passenger caps must remain in effect. Current curfew regulations must remain in place.

We would also like to bring to your attention our concern with current operations at the Westchester County Airport. Over the years, we have noticed a substantial increase in the number corporate aircraft using the facility. These charter/corporate jets are not under the passenger cap or flight cap. They fly at low altitudes and continue flights into the night. Corporate and private operators are not subject to any sort of penalty for breaking their curfew. They are creating noise pollution, and our skies are being polluted with jet fumes. The expansion of corporate and charter flights is having a negative impact on our health, quality of life and property values.

We request that the County provide us, regional municipal legislators, with a briefing on the Master Plan and privatization as it stands now. We also request continued public involvement, public access to information, and an opportunity to comment on any potential privatization and expansion of the Westchester County Airport. Lastly, we would hope that you have strong bi-partisan support from the Board of Legislators before moving ahead with significant changes.

Please reach out to us with any questions or comments.

Sincerely,



Robert J. Greenstein
New Castle Town Supervisor

cc. Hon. John G. Testa
Hon. Francis Corcoran
Hon. Margaret Cunzio
Hon. Ben Boykin
Hon. David B. Gelfarb
Hon. Judith Myers
Hon. Alfreda Williams
Hon. Catherine Borgia
Hon. Sheila Marcotte
Hon. James Maisano
Hon. MaryJaneShimsky
Hon. Lyndon Williams
Hon. Gordon Burrows
Hon. Ken Jenkins
Hon. Virginia Perez