

JULY 18, 2023.

DEAR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS: We write to urge you to oppose the weakening of a law that protects the millions of sports fans and spectators who attend professional and collegiate sporting events each year. The current statutory ban on aircraft—including unmanned aircraft systems (“UAS”) or drones—flying over large stadium sporting events throughout the country provides necessary safety and security protections against real and potential threats.

We are deeply concerned about section 813 of the House version of the Federal Aviation Administration (“FAA”) Reauthorization Act. If adopted, the language would establish a broad and complex waiver program that would permit countless aircraft to fly near and over stadiums during games, putting millions of fans at risk, and unnecessarily so. Congress wisely eliminated a similar waiver program back in 2003, after discovering troubling and persistent failures, gaps, and vulnerabilities in the process for conducting background checks and issuing waivers.

The FAA first established flight restrictions over large stadium sporting events immediately following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, in response to concerns about terrorists using aircraft as weapons. Congress subsequently twice codified and strengthened these restrictions, providing specific criteria for aircraft operations permitted within the flight restricted area. Section 813 would effectively eliminate the specific criteria and replace it with an open-ended waiver program.

The long-standing, congressionally mandated flight restriction enhances the safety and security of large stadium events, while minimizing the disruption to the National Airspace System (“NAS”). Specifically, airspace over large stadiums—with a seating capacity of 30,000 people or more and where NFL, MLB, and NCAA Division 1 football games or major motor speedway events, such as NASCAR and INDYCAR races, are taking place—is closed to all aircraft from one hour before until one hour after a major sporting event. The flight restrictions extend to three nautical miles from the center of the stadium and from the surface to 3,000 feet above the stadium. The flight restrictions do not apply to authorized aircraft, such as Department of Defense, law enforcement or air ambulance flight operations, or those in contact with air traffic control for take offs and landings at nearby airports, among others.

Having devoted substantial resources to secure our stadiums on the ground, we regard the stadium flight restriction as essential to safeguarding the airspace overhead. Moreover, given the proliferation of UAS in our NAS, as well as the continuing need to remain vigilant to other current and emerging risks, the stadium flight restriction is as vital now as ever to our national security and public safety. We believe section 813 complicates the airspace over stadiums, compromises public safety and security, and courts potential disaster.

We, therefore, urge you to uphold current law and maintain existing flight restrictions that protect the safety and security of millions of fans who attend large stadium sporting events every year.

Sincerely,

CATHY LANIER,
*Chief Security Officer,
National Football
League.*

DAVID THOMAS,
*Vice President, Security and Ballpark
Operations, Major
League Baseball.*

BILL RHODES,

*Managing Director,
Security, National
Association for Stock
Car Auto Racing.*

DAN GAVITT,
*Senior Vice President,
National Collegiate
Athletic Association.*

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF DR. MILTON CARLYLE
DEWHIRST, MD

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2023

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Milton Carlyle Dewhirst, MD, who died of natural causes February 13, 2023, at the age of 89. Dr. Dewhirst was not only a pillar of the Pike's Peak region as a successful and generous family practice doctor and medical examiner, his faith and zeal for the Lord were foundational for the spiritual climate in Colorado Springs and set a model for family values and Christian citizenship. Dr. Milton Dewhirst truly helped make the culture of the 5th Congressional District as beautiful as our natural surroundings.

After graduating from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1954 and from Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas in 1958, Dr. Dewhirst completed his Medical Internship at the Balboa Naval Hospital in San Diego, California. He then received flight training in Pensacola, Florida, followed by service as a Senior Aviation Medical Examiner at the U.S. Naval Air Station, Brunswick, Maine.

In 1963, as a Diplomat of American Board of Family Practice, Dr. Dewhirst began a solo family medical practice. In 1972 he founded Family Practice Associates PC. He also treated patients at Penrose, Memorial, and Saint Francis Hospitals. Many Colorado Springs families were blessed to have Dr. Dewhirst as their life-long Family Doctor—from delivering their babies to treating the elderly. After 43 years, he retired from Family Practice in 2001 and continued as an FAA Senior Medical Examiner until 2019.

Dr. Dewhirst was not only a family doctor, but a devoted family man. He married his high school sweetheart LaBerta Phillips on August 6, 1954. They were married for 68 years. Together, the Dewhirsts raised 5 children—Debra Rayburn, Rebecca Lathrop, Miles Dewhirst, Angela Simmons, and Christine Van Raaphorst. Their legacy continues with 15 grandchildren and 29 great grandchildren. Milton's commitment to marriage and family extended into his service as an Elder at Village Seven Presbyterian Church, where he was active in teaching Bible Studies and Evangelism.

At a time when families and marriages in our culture are struggling at heeding the words of Jesus, that “a wise man build his house upon a rock.” Dr. and Mrs. Dewhirst blessed Colorado Springs as a model and mentor for families instilling Biblical values and consistency in serving medical, spiritual, and relational needs. The Dewhirst legacy goes beyond his own family into the countless families that he influenced and that also continue to “build their house upon a solid rock.”

SECURING GROWTH AND ROBUST LEADERSHIP IN AMERICAN AVIATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2023

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3935) to amend title 49, United States Code, to reauthorize and improve the Federal Aviation Administration and other civil aviation programs, and for other purposes:

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 3935, the Securing Growth and Robust Leadership in American Aviation Act. This bill will allow the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to address critical modernizations and aviation personnel shortages and provide the FAA with the tools necessary to continue its mission of providing the safest, most efficient aerospace system in the world.

I would also like to thank Chairman GRAVES for his hard work and leadership in bringing this bill to the floor.

Amendment No. 89, which I am a cosponsor, would direct the Comptroller General to conduct a study on the closure of the Banning Municipal Airport in Banning, California. The amendment is critically important to the local community including the Morongo Band of Mission Indians.

After a 2016 independent analysis concluded that the airport lacked the infrastructure and amenities to compete regionally, the Banning City Council voted in support of closing the airport; however, FAA approval must be obtained before this can happen.

Closing the Banning Airport will allow the city to redevelop the area, providing a much-needed economic boost to Riverside County and the region at large. This amendment is an important step in starting this process.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIMMY GOMEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2023

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, on July 19, 2023, I was not recorded on Roll Call vote No. 356.

Had I been present, I would have voted “NAY” on Roll Call No. 356.

SECURING GROWTH AND ROBUST LEADERSHIP IN AMERICAN AVIATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MIKE JOHNSON

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2023

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3935) to amend title 49, United States Code, to reauthorize and improve the Federal Aviation Administration and other civil aviation programs, and for other purposes:

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. I wish to include in the RECORD the following letter from the National Football League, Major League Baseball, the National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing, and the National Collegiate Athletic Association expressing opposition to Section 813 of the Federal Aviation Administration Reauthorization Act.

JULY 18, 2023.

DEAR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS: We write to urge you to oppose the weakening of a law that protects the millions of sports fans and spectators who attend professional and collegiate sporting events each year. The current statutory ban on aircraft—including unmanned aircraft systems (“UAS”) or drones—flying over large stadium sporting events throughout the country provides necessary safety and security protections against real and potential threats.

We are deeply concerned about section 813 of the House version of the Federal Aviation Administration (“FAA”) Reauthorization Act. If adopted, the language would establish a broad and complex waiver program that would permit countless aircraft to fly near and over stadiums during games, putting millions of fans at risk, and unnecessarily so. Congress wisely eliminated a similar waiver program back in 2003, after discovering troubling and persistent failures, gaps, and vulnerabilities in the process for conducting background checks and issuing waivers.

The FAA first established flight restrictions over large stadium sporting events immediately following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, in response to concerns about terrorists using aircraft as weapons. Congress subsequently twice codified and strengthened these restrictions, providing specific criteria for aircraft operations permitted within the flight restricted area. Section 813 would effectively eliminate the specific criteria and replace it with an open-ended waiver program.

The long-standing, congressionally mandated flight restriction enhances the safety and security of large stadium events, while minimizing the disruption to the National Airspace System (“NAS”). Specifically, airspace over large stadiums—with a seating capacity of 30,000 people or more and where a NFL, MLB, and NCAA Division 1 football games or major motor speedway events, such as NASCAR and INDYCAR races, are taking place—is closed to all aircraft from one hour before until one hour after a major sporting event. The flight restrictions extend to three nautical miles from the center of the stadium and from the surface to 3,000 feet above the stadium. The flight restrictions do not apply to authorized aircraft, such as Department of Defense, law enforcement or air ambulance flight operations, or those in contact with air traffic control for take offs and landings at nearby airports, among others.

Having devoted substantial resources to secure our stadiums on the ground, we regard

the stadium flight restriction as essential to safeguarding the airspace overhead. Moreover, given the proliferation of UAS in our NAS, as well as the continuing need to remain vigilant to other current and emerging risks, the stadium flight restriction is as vital now as ever to our national security and public safety. We believe section 813 complicates the airspace over stadiums, compromises public safety and security, and courts potential disaster.

We, therefore, urge you to uphold current law and maintain existing flight restrictions that protect the safety and security of millions of fans who attend large stadium sporting events every year.

Sincerely,

CATHY LANIER,
Chief Security Officer,
National Football
League.

DAVID THOMAS,
Vice President, Security and Ballpark
Operations, Major
League Baseball.

BILL RHODES,
Managing Director,
Security, National
Association for Stock
Car Auto Racing.

DAN GAVITT,
Senior Vice President,
National Collegiate
Athletic Association.

HONORING FRANCES METCALF ON THE OCCASION OF HER 99TH BIRTHDAY

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2023

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Frances Metcalf, who will be celebrating the milestone of her 99th birthday tomorrow. It is a distinct honor to pay tribute to Frances, who like many other women made substantial contributions to the war effort during World War II.

In 1943, Frances worked tirelessly to earn a job at one of the General Motors plants in East Cleveland, Ohio. There, she assisted in manufacturing air duct assemblies for over 75 Boeing B-29 Superfortress aircrafts which were crucial to U.S. military operations for over 20 years. She worked there until she was old enough to serve in women's branch of the United States Naval Reserve.

In 1944, the recruitment age for all female volunteers was 20 years old. That same year, Frances turned 20—and shortly thereafter, she enlisted to serve as a naval nurse in Brooklyn, New York. Many ‘Rosie the Riveters’ followed the same route in service to the homefront, and ultimately, were integral to U.S. victory.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and honoring Frances Metcalf on her 99th birthday. I am beyond proud to serve her in Congress and to have her in our community. The crucial contributions of her and many other women should never be forgotten in our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2023

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on roll call No. 295.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MRS. ALEITA HUGUENIN

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and lasting contributions of Mrs. Aleita Huguenin. Passing away at the age of 77, Mrs. Huguenin leaves behind an indelible legacy as an educator, mentor, activist and friend.

Born in Durango, Colorado in 1946, to 2 teachers, Mrs. Huguenin's love for education and learning flourished from a young age. In the late 1960s, she moved with her family to Walnut Creek, beginning what would become a lifelong residency in California. After earning her bachelor's degree from San Francisco State University, Mrs. Huguenin began teaching elementary and middle school in the Mount Diablo Unified School District of Concord, California. Throughout her tenure as a teacher, she demonstrated a steadfast dedication to her students and strived to ensure they had the resources necessary to achieve their full potential.

Driven by her passion for activism and sincere belief in the importance of collective bargaining, Mrs. Huguenin served as the president of her local teacher's union, leading her fellow teachers in their first strike. Her critical work as a grassroots organizer and community leader, left an everlasting mark not only on Contra Costa County, but also California. For more than 40 years, Mrs. Huguenin served her country and community with an unwavering sense of justice and fairness. She consistently advocated for women's rights and equality for all, never failing to stand up for others and uphold the democratic values our country was founded on.

While exhibiting leadership as a community leader and advocate, Mrs. Huguenin also played a pivotal role in the California Teachers Association. For over 2 decades, Mrs. Huguenin impacted thousands of California educators, teaching them how to effectively serve future generations of students. As part of her critical work transforming California's education system, Mrs. Huguenin spearheaded the founding of the California Teachers Association Summer Institute, an innovative training program helping teachers learn how best to address the ever-changing needs of today's students.

In addition to her leadership in the education and community organizing fields, Mrs. Huguenin exemplified the spirit of altruism and innovation in all areas of her life. Mrs. Huguenin will be remembered not only for her decades of service to Contra Costa students and California teachers, but also for her genuine spirit of kindness and compassion. She