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ORIGINAL:

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DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION

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August 3, 1999

U.S. Department of Transportation Dockets
Docket No. FAA-99-5927
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Docket No. FAA-99-5927-7

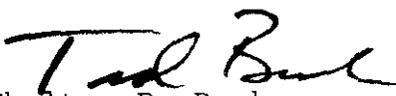
Gentlemen:

According to reports, the FAA is considering modifications to the Grand Canyon National Park Special Flight Rules Area and Flight-free zones, commercial air tour limitations and proposed special flight rules, with a view toward restoring "natural quiet" in the Grand Canyon.

I am both an aviator and a hiker. Both activities provide me an opportunity to participate in the outdoors. I used to be an avid hiker into and within the Grand Canyon, but as I grow older I am losing my ability to engage in the strenuous hiking required in such vertical country. However, I have not lost my appreciation for the beauty of the Grand Canyon.

I oppose the proposed restrictions on aviation over and in the vicinity of the Grand Canyon National Park. The effort to restore "natural quiet" ignores the literally millions of people who have been able to enjoy the beauty of the Grand Canyon via aircraft, who would never have been able to have enjoyed it from the hiking trail. I oppose the proposed restrictions and hope that the FAA will recognize the greater good allowed by continuation of the existing levels of regulation in these areas.

Yours truly,


Thelton D. Beck

TDB/dm