

62451

ORIGINAL

DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION

DOCKETS

**Pete Imus**

03 AUG 31 PM 12:04

**POB 235/894 Diamond Creek Ln.  
Peach Springs, AZ 86434  
(520) 769-2538**

August 26, 1999

U.S. Department of Transportation Dockets  
Docket No. FAA-99-5927 - 22  
400 Seventh Street SW.  
Room Plaza 401  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Sirs,

In the matter of Commercial Air Tour Limitations in the Grand Canyon National Park Special flight Rules, I am submitting this comment as a member of the Hualapai Nation.

As an employee of Hualapai Housing, I have learned the rules and regulations required for operating a Housing Authority, I am aware of Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations at CFR Parts 950, 953, 955, 1000, 1003, and 1005 for the Implementation of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act of 1996 (NAHASDA).

Helicopter Companies out of Las Vegas, Nevada have commented that they will be losing business, forced to lay off employees, and/or eventually forced out of business. Having been a former employee of the Grand Canyon West, where the helicopter companies bring in tourists to visit the Hualapai Nation, I am aware that this will also mean a loss of jobs for other Hualapai Members who do not work for a helicopter company, but who are employees with the Tribal Enterprise.

In the past three years we have had Hualapai Members receive deeds to their homes, making them homeowners on the Hualapai Reservation, the land on which they grew up calling home. If there is a loss of jobs out at Grand Canyon West, this will affect my organization. Under NAHASDA, Hualapai Housing is to operate as a business. A business can not operate in an area where there is a low economy. Putting Commercial Air Tour Limitations on flights that land on the Reservation will affect the Hualapai Tribal economy.

We will have members resigning their home unit with our organization in order to leave the Hualapai Community in search of a job off the Hualapai Reservation. There are a number of Hualapai Members who presently reside off the Hualapai Reservation due to employment; such Hualapai Members have resigned their home unit with Hualapai Housing.

Placing Commercial Air Tour Limitations on flights that land on the Reservation will result in a loss of jobs for Hualapai People. It will affect other Hualapai Tribal Departments who depend on the revenue generated from dollars spent by tourists visiting Grand Canyon West brought there by helicopter companies out of Las Vegas, Nevada. Loss of these Tribal dollars will result in a loss of jobs in other Tribal Departments.

A loss of jobs will result in Hualapai Housing Tenants unable to make their rent payment or House payment. With lack of payments, this will affect the up-keep of their home by maintenance service provided by Hualapai Housing. Due to lack of employment, by not meeting their financial obligation to Hualapai Housing, tenants may resign their rental or homeowner unit. This means that many people, like myself, will lose their chance to be a homeowner.

Being involved in various planning committees for the Hualapai Community, such as the Hualapai Indian Day, Hualapai Youth Pow-Wow, and Hualapai Sobriety Festival, I am aware that a great portion of event dollars come from Tribal dollars generated from Grand Canyon West.

In this regard, I urge the Federal Aviation Administration to grant the Hualapai Nation an exemption as you have our neighboring Havasupai Tribe.

Respectfully submitted,

I  
  
Pete Imus, Member  
Hualapai Tribe