

ORIGINAL

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DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION

26 August 1999

U. S. Department of Transportation Dockets  
Docket **FAA99-5927-24**  
400 Seventh Street, SW  
Washington DC, 20590

53 AUG 31 PM 12:05

Re: Aircraft Noise in the Grand Canyon

I have been hiking in the Grand Canyon since **1965**. One of the most impressive and important features of the Grand Canyon is silence. Or at least it was when the Park was founded and so it was for many years thereafter, even into my early days hiking there. However, assaults from the air had become so prominent that in **1987** Congress passed **an act in 1987 requiring the FAA to "substantially restore the natural quiet"**.

This has not been done.

Nor will the weak proposal that the FAA is now presenting.

Over- Canyon air **traffic** has more than doubled in the period since 1987 and it continues to grow. The new proposals say that during the tourist season, only 3 1 percent of the park will be quiet **3/4** of the day. That means that the rest of the park could have **aircraft** noise all day!

This does not even meet the FAA's weak standard: 50 percent of the park quiet **3/4** of the day. The standard allows noise all day in the other half of the park.

To **meed** the Congressional mandate, the number of flights should be capped at the 1987 level - fewer would be better.

Helicopters are especially objectionable.

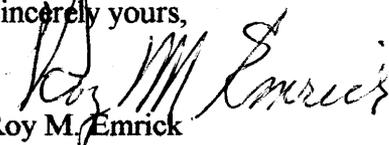
Traffic should not be diverted to such awesome areas as Point Sublime.

The experience of the majority should not be degraded because a wealthy few do not have or do not want to take the time to experience the Grand Canyon as it should be.

And this is not a problem just at the Grand Canyon. I was recently at **Bryce** Canyon and was rarely out of hearing of helicopter tours over the back country.

I strongly urge you to follow the intent of the 1987 law and make a real reduction in the **aircraft** noise at the Grand Canyon.

Sincerely yours,



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