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Date: 8/28/99 2:37 PM
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To: 9-NPRM-CMTS; senator@boxer.senate.gov; senator@feinstein.senate.gov;
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Priority: Normal
Subject: General Aviation over National Parks FAA-99-5926-54

I am a private pilot who flies cross country frequently. I also am an avid hiker and backpacker who uses Yosemite National Park, Kings Canyon National Park, and others as well as National Forest areas such as the Desolation Wilderness very close to my home. In all my years of hiking I have never heard aircraft noise to a level that is offensive. In fact, I often hike with an aviation handheld radio tuned to the emergency frequency monitored by military aircraft as well as air traffic carriers and instruct the ladies

with whom I hike how to use it as a means of communication in the event of an emergency. Cell phones are often useless in mountainous areas. I adamantly oppose any further restrictions of general aviation aircraft over park and wilderness areas. There simply is no need. Inasmuch as our military is no longer producing the pilots necessary to carry us as passengers in commercial flights and to fight fires and provide search and rescue operations, how do you expect to continue to provide this country with qualified pilots if you continue to restrict the airspace available to general aviation. Private aircraft perform many valuable services to our communities. They do not emit offensive noise over park areas. I can testify to this personally. At AirVenture this year I attended a forum held by the National Park Service on overflights of the Grand Canyon.

Afterwards

I spoke with the Ranger who conducted the forum, and he was extremely helpful in assisting me on approved VFR routes through the Canyon. There are already sufficient restrictions to separate the small amount of aircraft

noise from general aviation aircraft and people. In May of next year I will

meet members of my family at the Grand Canyon and want to give them the thrill of an aerial tour while remaining sensitive to the pleasures of my fellow hikers. I am sure you will find private pilots engaging in such tours reduce their power so as to emit the least amount of noise possible and respect the altitude restrictions over Parks which is certainly what I will do. There needs to be tolerance for the needs of both the pilots and people on the ground seeking to enjoy our National Parks. It is blatantly unfair to say we can't enjoy our parks from the air. Thank you for your attention. Claudette Colwell 1919 Country Club Drive Placerville, CA. 95667 (530) 621-3408



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