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CITY OF ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

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Office of the Mayor

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U.S. Department of Transportation
Room Plaza 401
400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590-000

RE: Docket # FAA-2000-8274 - 136

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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

The City of Ann Arbor would like to go on record in support of Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) regulating Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFR) (Docket No. FAA-2000-8274; Notice No. OO-13. At issue for the City of Ann Arbor are the University of Michigan football games that are played in a stadium that seats almost 115,000 spectators, six times a year. Equally important is the fact that the stadium is located in a dense residential area of the City. The City shares in the concerns of the University for the large number of banner towing and other aircraft that circle the stadium, before, during and after the games.

The City of Ann Arbor is not only concerned about the safety of the public sitting in the stadium, but the residents in the immediate area as well. The City has received complaints for years over the large number of banner towing aircraft flying around the stadium on game day. According to our citizens and attendees at the games, the aircraft are very noisy and draw attention from the event underway within the stadium. Some residents have also expressed their concern for the safety of the activity when so many aircraft, with banners, are flying in the same limited airspace. The same concern must be expressed for the blimps, helicopters, and fighter jets that from time to time also share the same limited airspace.

It appears from the development of this proposed rule that other areas of the country, having similar large events, also have a like concern. The City of Ann Arbor Council appreciates the opportunity to comment on this most important rule and encourages you to do whatever possible to curb this growing problem. It is important that we do everything possible to insure the safety and well being of this community and its citizens. The ability to establish TFR's for major events, such as the University of Michigan football games, would be a significant start in the process of ensuring a more safe environment during such events. We urge you to

proceed with the necessary actions to create a final rule that will provide the City of Ann Arbor and other communities with the ability to protect their citizens and visitors while attending these significant events.

Very truly yours,


John Hieftje, Mayor
City of Ann Arbor

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c: City Council