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From: Michael Garvin
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DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION
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June 2, 2001

To: Director Anthony Fazio
Office of Rulemaking
DOT-FAA Docket Management System
Room PL401, 400 Seventh Street, SW.
Washington, DC 20591
Re: DOCKET NO. FAA-2001-8690 - 44

Dear Director Fazio,

I am submitting comments on the FAA's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for the National Parks Air Tour Management Act.

I place great value on preserving natural quiet and aesthetics in America's national parks. To do this, it is necessary to manage commercial air tours over our national parks.

I would like to support the 5,000-foot Above Ground Level altitude as the triggering altitude for the air tour management plan, as recommended by the Federal Aviation Administration. This level was also recommended by the members of the National Parks Overflights Working Group with nearly unanimous consent. This is reasonable because the 5,000-foot level in no way interferes with general aviation traffic since only flight operators who meet the rest of the act's definitions are defined as commercial air tour operators.

I would also like to note that in any Air Tour Management Planning process, the Federal Aviation Administration should recognize the National Park Service's expertise on natural quiet issues and defer to their authority in order to determine the impacts of noise on park visitors, resources, and values.

I urge the FAA to begin immediate enforcement of the "no new entrants" clause of the act, in order to prevent new air tour operators from flying over parks before the air tour management planning process starts. I also strongly urge you to block any existing air tour operators from flying over parks if they have ignored the National Park Air Tour Management Act's requirement that air tour operators flying over national parks notify the FAA of their over-park operations within 90 days of the passage of the National Parks Air Tour Management Act.

Last, I would like to request that the FAA clearly define the process through which air tour management plans will be developed.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my comments.
Sincerely,

Michael J. Garvin

