

As a pilot, and future airline employee, I see the importance of recognizing and confronting the potential problems of congested airspace. Aviation is very sensitive and must be well managed in order to sustain the type of growth it has experienced in the past few years. We cannot allow the airspace system to experience the tragic inefficiency to which some of our highways are now subjected.

For this reason, I, like many others involved, agree with reduced visual separation minimums (RVSM). It is imperative that we get as much ahead of the problem now and do our best to prevent oversaturation.

Many companies may disagree with this NPRM due to the costs it will inflict on their current operating aircraft. Many airplanes will need upgrades in order to meet the requirements of such flight rules, but these costs could be far exceeded if the proposed rule is not put in place. Basically, the potential for increased time in the air and reduced fuel efficiency will add up quick for a company.

Technological advances in the cockpit continue to provide better opportunities for a pilot to be self-aware of surrounding traffic. The current minimums leave more than enough room for improvement and the current growth of the industry certainly warrants change. The RVSM definitely provides an effective answer to the problem at this time.