253188 Docket # 28770

12-24-96

To Whom It May Concern

FAA 63-14715-21

I am writing in response to the proposed opening of the airways above the Grand Canyon to Flight Tours. I will not go into detail with harsh words of why this should be limited, because this will not have the impact that is desired: "two wrongs don't make a right." I was privileged to experience the beauty & spiritual power of this place on a guided raft trip in the spring of 1994. I am very active in outdoor endeavors, and have experienced many special places firsthand. However, this trip was truly special, and I gained a heightened appreciation & respect for those who make a living bringing the essence of the Grand Canyon experience to customers in a "low impact" fashion. The onset of "noisy" air tours severely jeopardizes this sacred experience. I am open to wild places being available for everyone to experience, but ~~[illegible]~~ it simply becomes a means to capitalize at the ~~cost of~~ expense of altering the natural balance

by over-commercializing. It is truly sad. We are blessed by having such beautiful places preserved & set aside for us to enter into & gain perspective. But a line needs to be drawn as to how we package these opportunities. Consider the Canyon, consider the people who sacrifice to share this place with others on a firsthand basis - by raft.

I recall, even the large-motor-powered tourboats somewhat of an exposure, and the noise pollution they created was discouraging.

The proposed Air-Tour business would ultimately destroy the existing "quietness" of the Canyon now & for generations to come. Please consider your decision based on preservation, not on financial gain.

Thank you,
Chris Appleton
ex-Canyon rafter