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Author: madgofer@ix.netcom.com at smtpgate  
Date: 1/28/97 1:34 AM  
Priority: Normal  
TO: F-ARM-NPRM-COMMENTS at ARM  
Subject: Docket # 28770

FAA-03-14715-42

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Dear Folks,

As regards the current legislation, Docket number #28770, affecting airplane and helicopter overflights of the Grand Canyon, I believe that:

- \* Tour operators should be required to convert to the quietest technology available.
- \* We should not allow whatever gains are made by this conversion to be lost by allowing more aircraft into the airspace. The cap on the number of aircraft should be firm and permanent.
- \* Specifications for categorizing an aircraft's noise efficiency should be more stringent than those proposed.
- \* No aircraft - even the less noisy ones - should be granted a route through a flight free zone.

I know you are well aware of the arguments for and against the limiting of overflights over the Grand Canyon. I am sure there are significant commercial interests on both sides of the issue. However I must speak as a simple person who has had the awesome experience of travelling down the Canyon on a raft and must say that it was probably the single most spiritually moving experience of my life. Being in the Canyon and away from the influences of modern life allow one time to reflect in a most momentous fashion on the age of this earth we live on and the smallness of ourselves in both time and space as we travel through in our short lives. I urge all who can to make this mind opening trip, and I urge all who can to protect this experience from its ruination by the noise of airplanes and helicopters flying overhead. The peace and serenity is shattered each time a silver bird cruises over. There are so few places we can find this kind of experience anymore. Please do what you can to shift the flyovers to places that will not diminish the river (and hiking) experience for those who make the significant physical effort to go into the canyon for the kind of experience that can be found nowhere else. And go down there for yourselves if you seek a time of retreat, physical and spiritual challenge, some moments of awe and wonder that cannot be found even in the grandest of cathedrals. Thank you for your aid in this most important matter.

Sincerely,

Betsy Ryan  
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