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FAA-03-14715-43

February 11, 1997

Federal Aviation Administration  
Office of Chief Counsel  
Attention: Rules Docket (AGC-200)  
Docket # 28770  
800 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20591

Re: Proposed rules on Grand Canyon Overflights

Dear Sir,

I am writing to urge the FAA to fully comply with legislation passed a decade ago. The 1986 National Park Overflights Act called for "substantial restoration of natural quiet" at the Grand Canyon. Since then there have been numerous directives to the FAA ( the most recent ones being from Secretary Pena and President Clinton) to institute rules to achieve this goal. Finally, the FAA acted on December 31 of last year, unfortunately in a manner indicating more concern for the air tour industry than for the obvious intention of legislators. Numerous changes need to be made in the proposed rules from the FAA.

Specifically:

National Canyon should be free of all flights whether from "quiet" aircraft or not.

The "Dragon Corridor" should be closed to all overflights as recommended by the Park service.

There should be an absolute and permanent limit to air tours over the park (this limit would logically be set at the number of flights during 1986 when the Overflights Act was passed).

More generally, it would seem that the obvious solution to this conflict would be for the FAA to acceded to the local authority of national park Supervisors in deciding how best to regulate the airspace over their parks, including the probability of managing airtour operators as concessionaires.

Sincerely,

  
Stephen Canning