Stop ATC Privatization Sample Letter #3

Dear Representative <<insert last name of your congressional representative here>>:

As one of your constituents, I respectfully request your attention to an issue that is of vital importance to me and to our country.

H.R. 2997, the 21st Century AIRR Act, includes a proposal to privatize our nation’s air traffic control (ATC) system. I urge you to take an immediate and forceful position against that portion of the legislation.

As Congress deliberates on this issue, you will hear arguments that other countries have adopted this privatization model and had success with it. In fact, the experiences of other countries have been mixed. And, in any case, none of those countries have airspace that is as large or complex as we have here in the United States.

Proponents of privatization will suggest that our ATC system uses 70-year old technology and that privatization is the only way to modernize. In fact, our U.S. ATC system already makes extensive use of 21st century technology. And, although I strongly support even more modernization, it is simply not true that this requires privatization.

Advocates of this ill-conceived proposal that Congress abdicate its authority and responsibility for the country’s national airspace will say that leading general aviation authorities within Congress are supportive of privatization. Although there are a small number of licensed pilots in the House who have voiced their support for this proposal, most continue to be opposed.

You will even hear some contend that anything less than privatization will result in a dangerous situation that puts the American flying public at risk. This is ridiculous on its face. The American ATC system is demonstrably and consistently the safest and most efficient in the world. And no other system has a safety record anywhere close to what we have in the United States.

Finally, you will likely hear arguments that this is a cut-and-dried issue that has already been researched and debated. This is also incorrect. I don’t want you to change your position based on my letter alone. But I do want and expect that you’ll take the time to collect a wide range of opinions and perspectives on this very important issue.

The proposal to privatize our country’s airspace is controversial and not supported by data of any kind. Before you take a position on this extraordinarily important issue, I encourage you to take the time to become fully informed. It’s a bad idea that will do irreparable harm to our country if the legislation is approved.

Very respectfully,

<<Your Name>>

<<Your contact information>>