

ROBERT E. LATTA
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3505

March 29, 2013

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Mr. Michael Huerta
Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Administrator Huerta:

I am writing in support of Air Traffic Control (ATC) services at the Toledo Air Traffic Control Tower. I understand that the FAA is studying these services to determine the effects a closure may have between the hours of 12:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m.

A loss of ATC services for any period of time would be detrimental to the livelihood of businesses that depend upon the services provided by the tower at all times. These businesses provide emergency medical transport, cargo and refueling, as well as "just in time" inventory to the area's critical automotive industry. Toledo is also the primary diversion airport should aircraft be unable to land in Detroit due to weather conditions. The loss of this opportunity would jeopardize air safety and revenue generation for local businesses.

In addition, the cessation of ATC services in Toledo would have a detrimental effect on national security. The 180th Air National Guard Base could no longer operate at peak readiness levels. The unit includes an aerospace control alert mission and must be capable of deploying anywhere in the world within minimum response time. The 180th Air National Guard Base, and its F-16 mission, is extremely important to Ohio and the country. Therefore, to ensure that its key national and homeland security mission is not lost, 24-hour ATC operations must be preserved.

There are several safety issues that would arise should the Cleveland Air Traffic Control Center be tasked with providing services to aircraft traveling through Toledo airspace. For the 180th, an arresting cable that is normally controlled by the tower would have to be manually lifted, causing a degraded alert response time. In addition, local traffic may not be cleared on the tarmac creating a severe safety issue for the 180th pilots, line service personnel, and, to a larger extent, the general public. Furthermore, the runway lighting would be permanently set to medium causing a safety risk for all aircraft flying in inclement weather.

As you are aware, local airports, such as Toledo, provide a vital service to our rural communities. Without the ability to promote full airport operations, the likelihood of businesses

developing or expanding at these airports significantly decreases economic development opportunities.

In light of the aforementioned facts, I urge you to continue the essential Air Traffic Control services at the Toledo Air Traffic Control Tower at all times.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert E. Latta", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert E. Latta
Member of Congress