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October 12, 2006

Marion C. Blakey  
Federal Aviation Administrator  
800 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Ms. Blakey,

I am writing to express my concern about the FAA's current policy of allowing small-plane and helicopter flights over New York City. Yesterday's plane crash on the Upper East Side of Manhattan, an area I represent in Congress, demonstrates all too clearly that low-flying aircraft and high rise buildings do not mix. Accordingly, I urge you to seriously consider banning non-commercial air traffic over our city.

The airspace over New York is the most congested and difficult to navigate in our country. That fact, together with New York's status as "terrorist target number one," makes non-essential air traffic over our dense, urban area an unnecessary security risk and a significant gap in our air traffic control system.

Once again, I urge the FAA to help ensure the safety of New Yorkers by banning or seriously restricting non-commercial flights over our city. I thank you for contacting my office so quickly after yesterday's accident. I would very much like to meet with you or your staff at your earliest convenience to discuss this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Joe Soldevere of my district office staff at (212) 860-0606.

Sincerely,

CAROLYN B. MALONEY  
Member of Congress

Please reply to:  
1651 Third Avenue  
New York, NY 10128