

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 23, 2006

Mr. John Carr
President
National Air Traffic Controllers Association
1325 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Carr:

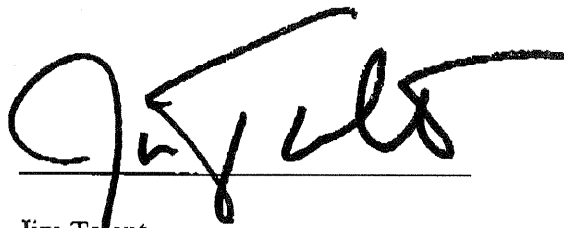
Several weeks ago, FAA Management reached an impasse in its contract negotiations with the National Association of Air Traffic Controllers (NATCA). In response to this, the FAA ended negotiations and submitted its final contract proposal to Congress for its review. If, after 60 days of the submission of this proposal, Congress does not act, the contract will become final.

Unfortunately, after nine months of negotiations, FAA management and NATCA have not been able to reach a voluntary agreement on a new contract for controllers. The resulting impasse has greatly strained relations between management and NATCA.

In light of this, we urge both FAA Management and NATCA to return to the bargaining table to voluntarily resolve this contract dispute before it becomes final on June 5. It is in the best interest of management, the controllers and the traveling public that every possible effort be made to resolve this dispute on a voluntary and mutually acceptable basis. The future operation of a safe and efficient National Airspace System depends on this effort.



Christopher S. Bond
U.S. Senator



Jim Talent
U.S. Senator