

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 10, 2007

The Honorable Marion C. Blakey  
Administrator, Federal Aviation Administration  
800 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Administrator Blakey:

When Hurricane Katrina hit the New Orleans area, Lakefront airport sustained heavy damage. The control tower, communications equipment, and navigation equipment were rendered useless. It has now been nearly two years since Hurricane Katrina struck, and Lakefront airport still remains without a functioning control tower. The airport is a vital economic engine for New Orleans, but without a functioning control tower, Lakefront lacks the safety provided by air traffic control services and proper navigation equipment. The negative effects from this situation are evidenced by the National Business Aviation Association deciding to hold their annual convention, originally scheduled for Lakefront airport, elsewhere for 2008. This marks the third year in a row that the convention has been held outside of New Orleans due to the problems at Lakefront.

Despite such air traffic control difficulties, Lakefront airport has made a slow recovery. While current traffic levels are still lower than those prior to Katrina, there is a continuous increase. It is a popular general aviation airport and is frequented by a mix of aircraft with different performance characteristics. Taking these characteristics into account, the FAA must move faster to restore full air traffic control services. We cannot wait until an accident occurs to remedy this situation. It is our understanding that the FAA was committed to providing a mobile tower to be used until the permanent tower could be restored. Unfortunately that commitment has not been honored, except for a brief 10-day period when air traffic increased during the Sugar Bowl this past January. We also understand the FAA has committed to reopening the control tower by July 1st, 2007, a seemingly unachievable commitment since construction has not yet begun.

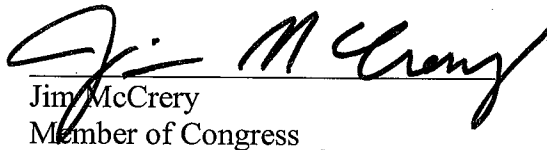
We urge you to provide a mobile control tower at Lakefront airport immediately, restore air traffic control services, and restore the permanent tower as soon as possible. The safety and economic recovery of Lakefront airport and the New Orleans area depend on it. We look forward to working with you on this issue and hearing the FAA's plans on the matter.

Sincerely,

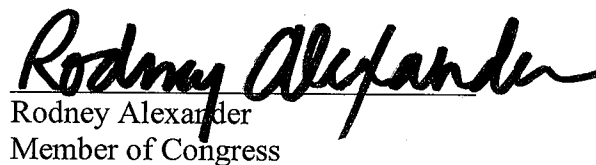
  
Mary L. Landrieu  
United States Senator

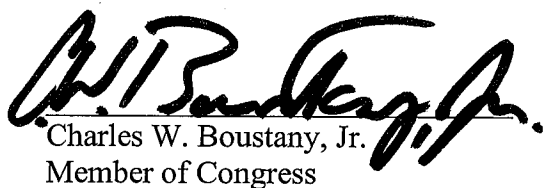
  
David Vitter  
United States Senator

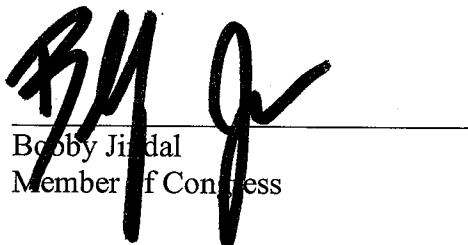
  
Richard H. Baker  
Member of Congress

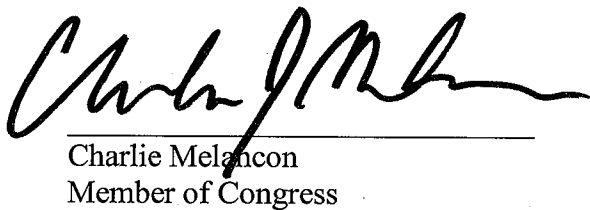
  
Jim McCrery  
Member of Congress

  
William J. Jefferson  
Member of Congress

  
Rodney Alexander  
Member of Congress

  
Charles W. Boustany, Jr.  
Member of Congress

  
Bobby Jindal  
Member of Congress

  
Charlie Melancon  
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