

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

November 22, 2013

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski  
503 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hal Rogers  
2406 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
304 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
2365 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington DC 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray  
154 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Latham  
2217 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington DC 20515

The Honorable Susan Collins  
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Edward Pastor  
2465 Rayburn HOB  
Washington DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Mikulski, Chairman Rogers, Ranking Member Shelby, Ranking Member Lowey, Chairman Murray, Chairman Latham, Ranking Member Collins, Ranking Member Pastor:

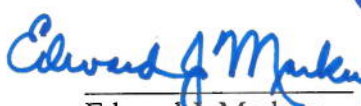
We are writing on behalf of the hundreds of airports throughout the nation which operate using Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) contract air traffic control (ATC) towers. In March, the Massachusetts Congressional delegation wrote to you regarding the FAA's announcement to close six of these towers that service airports in Massachusetts; Beverly, Lawrence, New Bedford, Norwood, Westfield-Barnes, Worcester.

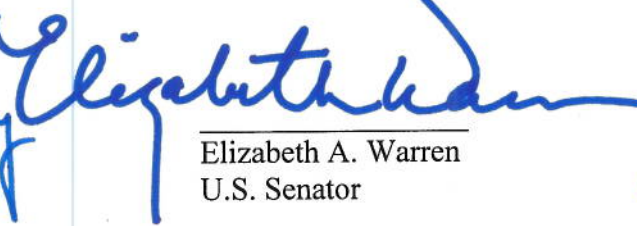
Fortunately, a temporary legislative fix was able to be reached last spring and these contract ATCs have remained open. However, we are concerned that without a long term budget solution in place, these towers may once again face closure. While we understand that the FAA's budget is facing fiscal constraints resulting from the Budget Control Act, we continue to feel strongly that safety, security and economic well-being should not be jeopardized. As you continue negotiations on the fiscal year 2014 Appropriations bill, we urge you to continue to support appropriate funding for ATC towers.

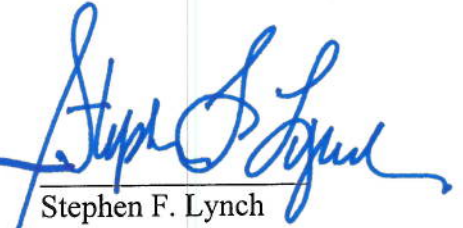
The FAA's contract tower program is critical to enhancing aviation safety and cost savings at our nation's smaller airports. The towers permit safe arrivals and departures, prevent mid-air collisions, and maintain the safety and efficiency of our national airspace system through essential flight training programs. These airports also have a significant direct economic impact on smaller cities and rural areas. Combined, the six named towered in Massachusetts manage hundreds of thousands of operations annually. The potential closure of these facilities will have negative economic impacts on surrounding airport communities.


Thank you for your attention to this important matter, and for your ongoing support for ATC towers.

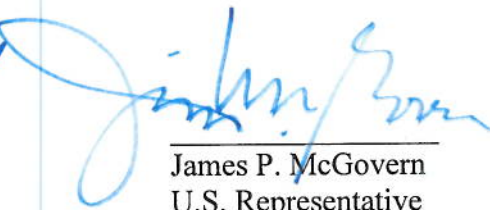
Sincerely,

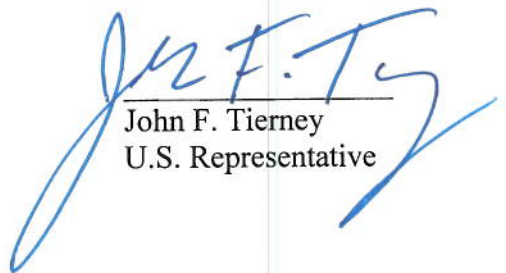
  
Edward J. Markey  
U.S. Senator

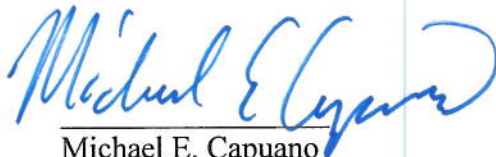
  
Elizabeth A. Warren  
U.S. Senator


  
Stephen F. Lynch  
U.S. Representative


  
Richard E. Neal  
U.S. Representative


  
James P. McGovern  
U.S. Representative

  
John F. Tierney  
U.S. Representative

  
Michael E. Capuano  
U.S. Representative

  
Niki S. Tsongas  
U.S. Representative

  
William R. Keating  
U.S. Representative

  
Joseph P. Kennedy  
U.S. Representative