

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 22, 2013

The Honorable Michael P. Huerta
Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Administrator Huerta:

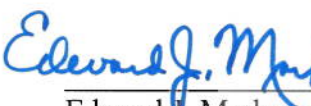
We are writing on behalf of the hundreds of airports throughout the nation which operate using Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) contract air traffic control (ATC) towers. In March, the Massachusetts Congressional delegation wrote to you regarding the FAA's announcement to close six of these towers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

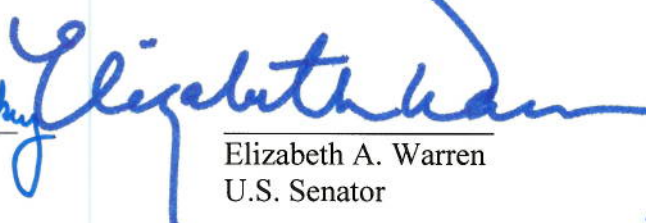
Fortunately, a temporary legislative fix was able to be reached last spring and these contract ATCs have remained open. However, we are concerned that without a long term budget solution in place, the FAA may once again consider closures of these towers. While we understand that the FAA is facing fiscal constraints resulting from the Budget Control Act, we continue to feel strongly that safety, security and economic well-being should not be jeopardized.

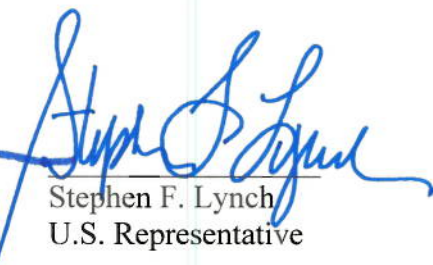
The FAA's contract tower program is critical to enhancing aviation safety and cost savings at our nation's smaller airports. The towers permit safe arrivals and departures, prevent mid-air collisions, and maintain the safety and efficiency of our national airspace system through essential flight training 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.

Given our concerns about the safety and security of passengers throughout the Commonwealth and around the country, we urge the FAA to keep all contract towers open. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

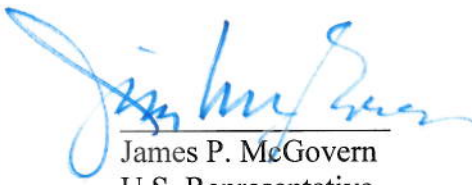

Edward J. Markey
U.S. Senator


Elizabeth A. Warren
U.S. Senator

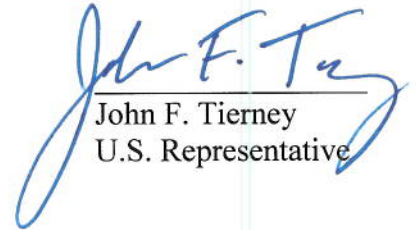

Stephen F. Lynch
U.S. Representative



Richard E. Neal
U.S. Representative



James P. McGovern
U.S. Representative



John F. Tierney
U.S. Representative



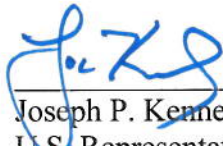
Michael E. Capuano
U.S. Representative



Niki S. Tsongas
U.S. Representative



William R. Keating
U.S. Representative



Joseph P. Kennedy
U.S. Representative