

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 24, 2019

Mr. Daniel K. Elwell
Acting Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
1575 I Street NW
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Acting Administrator Elwell:

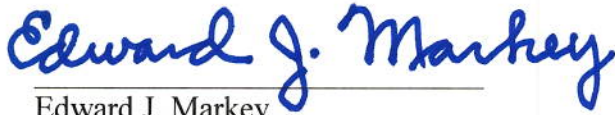
We write to express our serious concern regarding a proposal reportedly under discussion at the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to downgrade the New England Region Airports Division Office to a District Office. The New England Division Office provides a level of local expertise that cannot be replicated outside the region, and one that is essential in making effective funding decisions and supporting transportation activities across the Eastern seaboard. Downgrading the New England Region Airports Division to a District Office would significantly hinder the office's ability to efficiently address the changing needs of this important region.

The New England Region represents six states, ten tribal nations, and 109 airports. Civil aviation and its related industries employ over 237,000 people across New England, generate over \$43.7 billion annually, and contribute 3.3% of the region's GDP. Each year, the New England Region Airports Division Office funds over \$350 million in infrastructure investments that, when leveraged effectively and in consultation with local experts, maximizes the potential of this vital regional economic engine.

The substantial projects historically overseen by the New England Division Office cannot be managed from outside the region without compromising the FAA's ability to respond to the needs of this intricate airports system. In FY2018 alone, the New England Airports Division Office funded projects to repave taxiways at Bradley International Airport, reconstruct a taxiway in Bangor, repave the apron at Burlington International Airport, reconstruct runways at Martha's Vineyard Airport, rehabilitate runways and taxiways at T.F. Green International Airport, provide residential sound insulation for the communities surrounding Tweed-New Haven Airport, rehabilitate a taxiway at Manchester-Boston Regional Airport, and construct a new Airport Rescue and Fire Fighting Building at Hanscom Field, among others. In addition, the Appropriations Committee has provided \$1.5 billion in supplemental AIP funding over the last two years, which will only increase the workload for the New England Division Office. It is essential that the New England Region Airports Division retain its Division Office status and structure in order to ensure the efficient and effective administration of federal resources in the region.

As the Senators representing New England, we strongly urge the FAA to retain the New England Region as an Airports Division Office and to take the necessary steps to employ a fulltime Director for the New England Airports Division. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



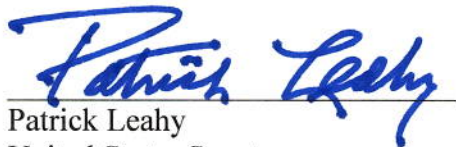
Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



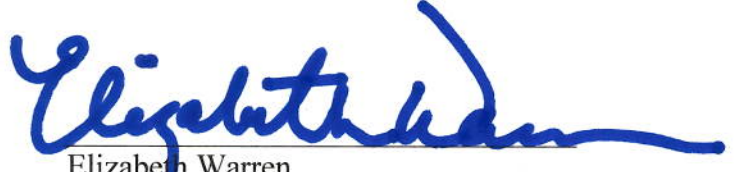
Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



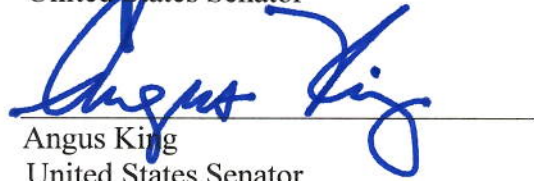
Jack Reed
United States Senator



Patrick Leahy
United States Senator



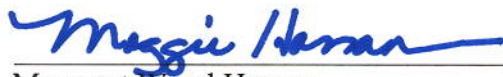
Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



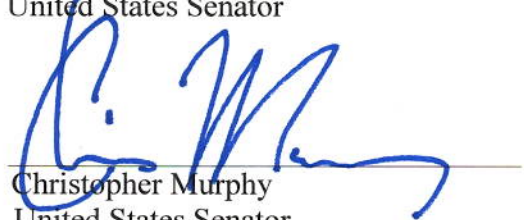
Angus King
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Christopher Murphy
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator