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United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20540-4905

BILL NELSON
FL 00014

June 19, 2006

The Honorable Marion C. Blakey
Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue, SW
Suite 1010
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Administrator Blakey:

While the Federal Aviation Administration reviews the Final Environment Impact Statement on the relocation of the Panama City Airport, I write to express my support for the conclusion reached within the study which selects the relocation of the airport as the preferred alternative.

As you are aware, I have written to you previously at earlier stages of this project history and support a new airport in the Panama City area for the following reasons: improved air safety, eliminating possible conflicts with air traffic at Tyndall Air Force Base, enhancing the capacity of the national system, and providing much-needed air service options to an underserved area of our state. On a more local basis, the new location will reduce noise, traffic congestion and other disruptions in the neighboring residential community, and also facilitate economic development in Bay County.

I look forward to the issuance of a favorable Record of Decision and subsequent Letter of Intent so that the construction of a new facility can begin as soon as possible. This is a critical element of efforts to improve capacity and air safety for those traveling to and from Northwest Florida.

Thank you for your consideration and continued dialogue regarding this project.

Sincerely,

cc: Ms. Catherine Long, Acting Associate Administrator
Ms. Carolyn Blum, Regional Administrator
Mr. Rusty Chapman, Airports Division Manager
Mr. Dean Stringer, Manager