

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 13, 2014

The Honorable Michael P. Huerta
Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Huerta:

As you know, the Charlotte Douglas International Airport is one of the 10 busiest airports in the Nation, and we expect continued growth with the merger between US Airways and American Airlines estimated to add 100 new daily flights. With a new runway which can accommodate larger aircraft and planned terminal expansions, it is expected passenger growth will continue well into the future. As a result, efficiently and safely accommodating those passengers is of utmost concern.

The Charlotte-Douglas airport, however, is limited in its airfield capacity today due to deficiencies in the current air traffic control tower. Built over 30 years ago, the tower's limited height, size and location will not allow for maximum utilization of the third parallel runway commissioned in 2010. Fully utilizing the airfield not only benefits the millions of local passengers in North Carolina who use the airport, but also the millions of passengers connecting at this key hub.

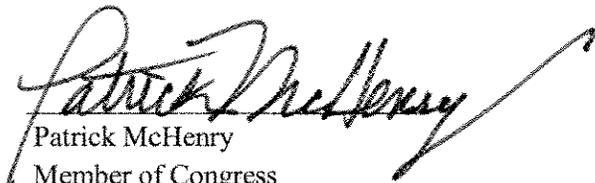
Recently, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has begun to plan funding for a new tower at Charlotte Douglas. Under the current planning scenario, the FAA envisions commissioning the new tower in 2019. In an effort to expedite the construction of this much needed new tower, we understand there have been discussions between the Airport and the FAA to expedite the construction of a tower by 2017 – a goal which we strongly support as the regional Congressional delegation. We further understand the City of Charlotte has agreed to facilitate the financing of a new tower consistent with precedent established by the FAA.

Mr. Administrator, we urge you to work with the Airport and the City of Charlotte to identify a financing structure to facilitate the opening of a new air traffic control tower at Charlotte Douglas International Airport by 2017. We appreciate your attention to this important matter and look forward to working with you and your colleagues at the FAA.

Sincerely,



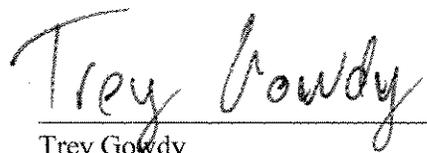
Robert Pittenger
Member of Congress

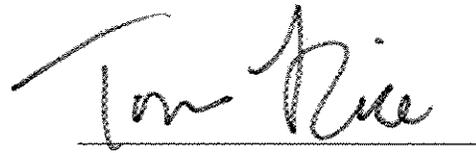

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