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Apr 19 2016

McCain & Flake Applaud Senate Passage of FAA Reauthorization Bill Addressing Phoenix Flight Path Changes

(<http://www.mccain.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/press-releases?ID=B2F72098-EF83-447A-86F2-D681928011DF>)

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Senators John McCain (R-AZ) and Jeff Flake (R-AZ) today applauded the Senate’s final passage of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Reauthorization Act, which includes their language that addresses concerns raised by residents of Phoenix about recent flight path changes at Sky Harbor International Airport.

The legislation also includes an amendment (http://www.flake.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/253dca58-9616-4028-8afa-3da13213bfd3/flake-3464.pdf) introduced by Senators Flake and McCain that would require the FAA to create an airspace management advisory committee to review and report to Congress on the agency’s process for developing proposals that impact airspace changes. Specifically, the committee would look at how the FAA coordinates both internally within the agency and externally with stakeholders on the proposals. Both measures stem from the FAA’s failure to engage with communities and airports before altering flight paths at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport.

“The Senate’s passage of this legislation represents an important step forward in making sure Phoenix residents impacted by flight path changes at Sky Harbor International Airport have the opportunity to make their voices heard,” **said Senator McCain**. “I want to thank Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee Chairman John Thune for including our measures that would require the FAA to mitigate the negative effects of flight path changes that have already been implemented, while providing impacted communities and airports a seat at the table before any future changes are made. I urge our colleagues in the House of Representatives to take up this bill so we can address the concerns of citizens in Phoenix and across the country who have been negatively impacted by these airspace changes.”

“I was pleased to work Sen. McCain to address the complaints of those negatively impacted by the flight path changes at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport. The provisions we were able to add to the bill establish a process to address those hardships, ensures the FAA will better consult on future flight changes and creates an airspace management advisory committee to evaluate how the FAA engages with stakeholders on flight path and other airspace changes,” **said Senator Flake**.

The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee has also included (<http://www.mccain.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/press-releases?ID=D9668C11-26C2-4536-AF54-D1004B505EB3>) the senators’ language in its FAA reauthorization bill, which passed the Committee in February. For a summary of Senator McCain and Flake’s efforts to address the concerns of Phoenix residents impacted by the FAA’s flight path changes, click here (http://www.mccain.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/b4fd03fe-f778-4445-ac51-86d268ee9313/mccain-flight-path-update-letter-updated-04192016.pdf).

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