

Sender: 561 471 7427
Time: 3:27 PM
Company:
Pages Sent: 3

Date: 2/8/2008
Fax Number: 5616841722
Subject:
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02/08/08 15:25 FAX 561 471 7427

DEPARTMENT OF AIRPORTS

002

Feb-07-08 04:16pm From-Rep Alcee Hastings-Wash DC

202-225-1171

T-836 P.002/003 F-453

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 7, 2008

Mr. Bruce Pelly
Director
Palm Beach County Airports Department
Building 846
Palm Beach International Airport
West Palm Beach, FL 33406

Dear Mr. Pelly:

We write to thank you for your willingness to work to address continued noise abatement issues facing individuals living in the Hillcrest neighborhood immediately adjacent to the airport. We deeply appreciated the time that you took last week to speak with Representative Hastings' staff and Trish Davis, a former constituent of his, regarding the impact that the announced airport expansion plans have had on property values in the Hillcrest neighborhood, including Ms. Davis' home. We also thank you for your commitment to work with Palm Beach County staff to determine if authorization and funds exist to offer a possible buyout to those residents who still live in Hillcrest and wish to leave, and we look forward to receiving that information.

The economically challenged citizens in the Hillcrest neighborhood have lived for years with noise and pollution from jets flying over their homes. When the airport announced its runway expansion plans, it went through the process of buying out property owners living within the plan's contour. This process, as you know, literally divided the community and left half of the Hillcrest neighborhood living outside of the zone eligible for the airport's buyout program. Sadly, those living just outside of the contour have seen their property values plummet and now face enormous difficulty in selling their homes because buyers are not interested in purchasing a home sitting immediately adjacent to the airport, especially knowing that the airport is planning an expansion.

The Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Part 150 Program allows for the "acquisition of homes or other uses through purchase by the airport operator (or planning authority or others) and their relocation." In a document prepared by the FAA and posted on its website, the Administration notes that the acquisition of these homes can be done "within the direct control of the airport or planning authority, and not require additional action by another political entity for implementation." In outlining Part 150 Program decisions reached by

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DEPARTMENT OF AIRPORTS

003

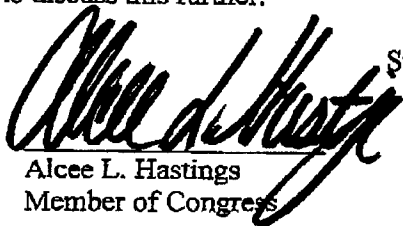
F Feb-07-08 04:18pm From-Rep Alcee Hastings-Wash DC

202-225-1171

T-898 P.003/003 F-453


option and where these individuals live. It would be irresponsible to ignore the impact that the airport expansion will have on nearby residents and not accommodate and compensate those individuals accordingly.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. As the airport continues to pursue expansion opportunities, we urge you to work to try and address and remedy this unfortunate situation in Hillcrest. Please do not hesitate to contact either of us or David Goldenberg in Representative Hastings' Washington office at (202) 225-1313 should you have any questions or wish to discuss this further.



Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

Sincerely,



Ron Klein
Member of Congress