



Los Angeles Area
Chamber of Commerce



July 3, 2007

The Honorable Maxine Waters
United States House of Representatives
2344 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Waters,

On behalf of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, the Valley Industry Commerce Association and the Central City Association of Los Angeles we strongly urge you to reconsider your legislation H.R. 2872. It prematurely prohibits Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) from repositioning its northern runway 24R as an option to safely accommodate larger airplanes at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX).

As you may be aware, the City of Los Angeles is moving forward with a process of engaging stakeholders, including the local community, aviation experts and Los Angeles area businesses to address the safety concerns on the north runway. This group will convene in response to the five safety studies already conducted by LAWA and will address local community and efficiency concerns not previously vetted. In order for decision makers to make informed choices about safety, efficiency and even environmental impacts of the airport every option must be on the table. If this stakeholder group or future EIRs find that there is a considerable safety or environmental benefit to moving the runway, your legislation could end up contradicting the desires of those you are trying to protect.

This legislation, which we recognize is targeted to protect a small portion of your constituents, could result in a significant detriment to local safety concerns and the region's economy. Our primary objective is to find a solution that serves the region in terms of ensuring the jobs and economic benefits associated with our airports while protecting safety and quality of life for local communities.

In the spirit of improving conditions for airport neighbors, we applaud the efforts behind H.R. 1708, which seeks to improve the livability of the neighborhoods south of LAX by providing noise dampening improvements for local classrooms. We urge you to work cooperatively with LAWA and community stakeholders to find a solution that ensures the sustainability of the region's airport infrastructure.

Sincerely,

Gary Toebben
Los Angeles Area
Chamber of Commerce

Brendan Huffman
Valley Industry
Association

Carol Schatz
Central City Association
of Los Angeles