

Arthur M. Kingdon
334 Oak Grove Road
Vassalboro, ME 04989

November 14, 2009

Olympia J. Snowe
United States Senator
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510-1903

Dear Senator Snowe,

I need your help on something of great significance to me and to the people of Maine. The Massachusetts Air National Guard is proposing to fly intercept flights (multiple planes) over the Western portion of Maine. Low flights down to 500 feet at high speed are something they proposed years ago and at the time it was the courageous and clear opposition from the Congressional Delegation and from the Governor which put an ill-conceived proposal aside.

The Massachusetts Guard is again proposing low flights, this time as intercept training which means that aircraft at high speed will be chasing each other over much of the western part of the state. They are not proposing these flights over any portions of Massachusetts. They are not seriously entertaining alternative sites. They are not satisfied with current training locations, though an aide in Maine to Congressman Michaud has told us that he has never talked to a deployed pilot who felt he was inadequately trained.

The Guard has submitted a desk level Environmental Impact Statement which used, among other things, Wikipedia as a source for their expertise. A complete field based Environmental Impact Statement is the minimum requirement for a change of the Condor Area use.

There have been several public meetings and discussions about this proposal. The Guard has been alarmingly unresponsive to the testimony of many people at these hearings. My wife and I have traveled from Vassalboro to Farmington for several of these meetings. We have property on Webb Lake. We remember a time when low flights occurred with or without a clear policy in place. I have been most impressed by technical material submitted at the hearings in opposition to the Guard's proposal. This material came from active small plane pilots, from former Air Force pilots, from environmental engineers, from business owners.

Please forcefully align yourself with other members of the Congressional Delegation and with the Governor in clear opposition to the Guard's low flight proposal for Maine airspace. Please make it clear to the Guard and to the FAA that you oppose this proposal. Please help get the Guard to abandon this alternative now before any more public funds are expended in such an ill-advised project.

Sincerely,

Arthur M. Kingdon