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February 2, 2010

The Honorable Olympia J. Snowe  
154 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Attn: Mr. Paul Nadeau

re: Condor Military Operations Area

Dear Senator Snowe:

The prime rationale behind the Air National Guard's Condor proposal is that it will save \$1.2 million in annual costs to deploy to an existing area. The Draft EIS then concludes that, since the average noise is below the FAA's significant noise impact threshold, there will be no adverse economic impact on our western Maine communities.

The FAA's threshold is set at a point where 10% of the population is "highly annoyed". This may work for urban areas where the annoyed can go elsewhere, but this standard fails to serve a tourist community. "Highly annoyed" tourists will leave. A goodly segment of those merely "moderately annoyed" will leave. Western Maine, with its multi hundred million dollar tourist industry, can suffer many tens of millions of dollars in economic losses even though the FAA threshold shows "no significant impact".

Granted the Guard has come up with an average noise level which is significantly below the FAA threshold, but it is still significantly above zero. The DEIS ignores any economic consequences of this noise. The DEIS further ignores the economic consequences of a "single noise event" and the instantaneous peak noise level (within 2.5 dB of the threshold of pain) on the tourists who come for a more serene environment. A competent EIS must quantify all these impacts on the economy and tax structure of Western Maine. If they exceed the \$1.2 million in alternative deployment costs, the proposal should be scrapped forthwith.

The Draft EIS process has been so riven with substantive and procedural errors and deficiencies that it has become a mockery of a fair and honest process. If the Guard intends to continue with its Condor process, it should prepare a competent draft and start again.

I would appreciate anything you can do to convince the Guard to adopt a fair process. Thank you for your help with this issue as well as your help in the 1992 version.

Sincerely yours,

David W. Guernsey