

**Testimony in opposition to jet ceiling drop from 7,000 to 500 feet
November 14, 2009**

To the FAA: This EIS does not meet the criteria to prove there would be no significant impact.

My name is Lloyd Griscom, and I am a full time resident of Phillips and Madrid.

I support the men and women in uniform who keep our country safe but not all of their ideas.

I am a director of the Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust, the Sandy River Land Trust and the High Peaks Alliance.

I am involved in collaborative large landscape conservation efforts in Maine's High Peaks Region.

The term "High Peaks" is a new branding effort to promote our extraordinary natural resources. 10 of Maine's 14 mountains above 4000 feet predominate here in western Maine.

Land conservation is a form of economic development: a form that preserves and enhances our "quality of place" and protects habitat for viable populations of flora and fauna to exist and adapt. With global stressors like climate change this will become ever more essential.

The Rangeley High Peaks Forest Legacy application recognizes the significance of this area to the State of Maine and on a national level.

The mills have closed and the need for a sustainable new economy is urgent.

New Zealand has a successful nature tourism economy. Their model has inspired a local business, Maine Huts and Trails, in their vision of walking and skiing trails between off-grid huts.

There is a growing local vision of connecting the High Peaks communities by back country trails, maintaining working forests with traditional-use activities like hunting, fishing and hiking, and public access for both motorized and non-motorized recreation.

The High Peaks Alliance, a grass-roots organization, is involved in the creation of a Cornelia "Fly Rod" Crosby hiking trail from Strong (where she is buried) to Phillips (where she was born and lived) to Rangeley (where she worked as a guide) ending at the Outdoor Sporting Heritage Museum in Oquossoc.

With the increasing urban- and suburbanization of our world, we need to protect places where we can observe the limits of natural systems and get a calibration that puts things into a new perspective.

Our efforts to connect Mt Blue/Tumbledown, Saddleback/Mt Abram/ Bigelow Preserve and Rangeley will create a world-class natural and recreational resource.

Low-level jet flights in the High Peaks Region would be incompatible with our resources and emerging economic opportunity. They would diminish the quality of our place and abort our efforts to develop nature tourism for a sustainable economy.

This EIS does not meet the criteria to prove there would be no significant impact on the High Peaks region. The impact would be devastating to our economy, ecology and our quality of place.

The Sandy River Land Trust endorses this position.

Thank you for listening to my concerns and for acting upon them.

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