

Rothman Building Coalition To Gain Tighter Security Restrictions Over New York City Airspace During War

April 2, 2003

Rothman Building Coalition To Gain Tighter Security
Restrictions Over New York City Airspace During War
Reaches Out To Local Governors, Members of Congress,
and Mayor Bloomberg To Gain Support

Washington, DC - Continuing his fight to secure immediate, new restrictions over New York City airspace during the U.S. war with Iraq, Congressman Steve Rothman (D-NJ9) today reached out to New Jersey Governor James McGreevey, New York Governor George Pataki, Connecticut Governor John Rowland, tri-state area Members of Congress, and New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg to have them join his call for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to impose new restrictions on general aviation aircraft flying within 15 miles of Manhattan.

“It is unacceptable that New York City, the site of the greatest terrorist attack in American history, still has not been given the same protection from general aviation aircraft that Washington, DC has in place today to protect its people and important sites,” Rothman said. “I am hopeful that our area’s Governors, Members of Congress, and Mayor Bloomberg will recognize the imminent need to protect the airspace over the New York City area from a potential terrorist attack by general aviation aircraft. Having more area leaders on board with my call for these new airspace restrictions will send a louder and more clear message to Homeland Security Secretary Ridge and the Bush Administration. The people of this region want and need the same safeguards given to the people of our nation’s capital.”

The restrictions Rothman is calling for would mirror those already in place for Washington, DC and would prohibit general aviation aircraft from flying within 15 miles of New York City, including those planes that operate at Teterboro Airport. The ban would last as long as the war with Iraq, or longer if the ban continued in Washington, DC. Planes can apply for exemptions, and if granted, those planes would have to undergo rigorous Transportation Security Administration (TSA) safety inspections before landing or taking off at Teterboro or any other airport within 15 miles of New York City.

“As one of the cities which was a target of terrorists on September 11, New York City, along with the immediately surrounding communities in the region where potential terrorist targets such as Giants Stadium and the Continental Airlines Arena are located, must be as highly protected as Washington, DC,” Rothman said. “While general aviation aircraft are much smaller than large commercial aircraft, were they to be crashed into any building where large numbers of people are gathered, or if such planes were filled with chemical or biological weapons, they could pose a significant danger. With the threat level now on a high and the nation at war, we cannot afford to take any chances.”

houseUnder guidelines set forth by TSA in March 2003, all aircraft - both commercial and general aviation - must adhere to new rules when within 30 miles of New York City. All aircraft must file a flight plan indicating the precise course of travel. Pilots also must maintain continuous contact with air traffic controllers and the planes would have to be equipped with transponders that would be used to track all plane movements. Rothman praised those regulations, but said they did not go far enough, which is why he is calling for further general aviation restrictions.

###

[Go back](#)