

SAMPLE LETTER

We recommend that you adapt and reword this appropriately to make it your own. Thank you.

Dear

I am writing to express my strenuous objections to spending substantial federal and state taxpayer dollars to extend the primary runway at Ann Arbor Municipal Airport and urge you to intervene during these critical economic times to stop this wasteful project.

While the City of Ann Arbor has argued that the proposed 800-foot runway extension would provide safety benefits, a closer examination of the record shows that the current 3,500-foot runway has had only 11 incidents in almost 1 million landings during the last 17 years, a record experts consider good for an airport with as significant a number of student pilots as Ann Arbor has. In reality, the extended runway is an invitation to more and heavier aircraft – including more jets and charters coming to Ann Arbor – posing substantial noise and safety risks to the neighboring communities which surround the airport, as well as residents of Ann Arbor along the airport's primary flight path.

The proposed changes would bring planes dangerously low, eventually placing the airport's boundary fences much closer to homes and just 400 yards from Lohr Road at the west end of the field. There has already been one very near miss in June of 2009 in which a small aircraft was forced to make an emergency landing on the golf course. Fortunately nobody was injured, but to increase the risk of a possibly fatal recurrence by moving the runway 950-feet closer to these homes, seems totally irresponsible. There were two other mishaps since the expansion proposal, both of which caused injuries—one on the airport and one several miles south.

As a local resident, a constituent of yours, and one of the taxpayers who would be paying for this airport extension, I strongly object to this use of my tax dollars. It is especially troublesome that these dollars could be granted to the City of Ann Arbor by only the vote of Ann Arbor elected officials, when most Ann Arbor residents will incur none of the consequential results of this decision and pay almost none of the cost of the airport preparatory studies and construction. This is a poor use of taxpayer monies when a superb airfield alternative already exists – constructed with federal and state taxpayer dollars -- just eight air miles away at Willow Run for these larger aircraft, which makes any extension of the Ann Arbor field both unnecessary and wasteful. For that reason, I urge you to intervene and help steer these tax dollars to better use.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

(Your signature)