

10/1/2008- Congressman Sires Applauds GAO Report and Urges FAA not to Move Forward with Slot Auction Proposal

Washington D.C.- Today, Congressman Sires applauded the report submitted by the U.S. Government Accountability Office stating that the FAA does not have the authority to auction airport slots...

For immediate release

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Washington D.C. - Today, Congressman Sires applauded the report submitted by the U.S. Government Accountability Office stating that the FAA does not have the authority to auction airport slots.

The Department of Transportation and FAA are planning to auction off arrival and departure times at Newark Liberty International Airport as well as JFK and LaGuardia airports in New York. The existing plan would require carriers to give up 10 percent of their slots, increase ticket prices and reduce service to small communities. Despite record high fuel prices the American traveler is not only feeling cost increases at the pump but also at the airport with increased tickets prices. The DOT and FAA's plan will undercut the economic welfare of communities throughout New Jersey.

"I am pleased with the report issued today by the Government Accountability Office (GOA) and remain committed along with my colleagues to stop the United States Department of Transportation and FAA's proposal," stated Congressman Sires. "I believe it is wrong to raise prices for everyone by creating an untested and unauthorized scheme, particularly during this economy."