

DENNIS A. ROSS
15TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CAPITAL MARKETS &
GOVERNMENT SPONSORED ENTERPRISES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT &
INVESTIGATIONS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
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February 27, 2013

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Mr. Michael P. Huerta
Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Ave SW Rm 1022
Washington, DC 20591-0001

Dear Administrator Huerta:

I write today to express my strong support for Lakeland Linder Regional Airport, and my opposition to the pending across-the-board sequestration cuts that may negatively affect its daily operations.

If the budget sequestration cuts go through on March 1, 2013, it is my understanding that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) may close 238 control towers starting in the beginning of April - including the tower at Lakeland Linder Regional Airport in my district.

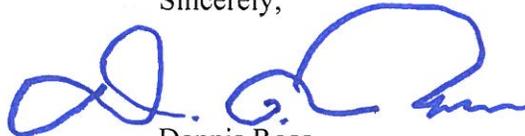
Our tower provides vital safety and efficiency benefits to our flying community in a cost-effective manner to taxpayers as demonstrated in the Department of Transportation (DOT) Inspector General report from last November.

Our tower also contributes greatly to both job creation and our local economy in general. For example, Lakeland Linder Regional Airport holds the annual six day Sun 'n Fun fly-in in April that celebrates aviation as the second largest event of its kind in the world. This event provides a \$50 million economic impact to the region each year.

After speaking with local stakeholders, I learned that the FAA might not be sending FAA air traffic controllers to Sun 'n Fun if sequestration cuts go through. If the FAA controllers are not on site for the Sun 'n Fun fly-in, the negative impacts and safety risks this action will cause are immeasurable.

In closing, I urge you and DOT Secretary LaHood to identify other savings in FAA's air traffic budget before you close our tower.

Sincerely,



Dennis Ross
Member of Congress