



March 11, 2011

Administrator Michael Huerta
Orville Wright Building (FOB 10A)
FAA national Headquarters
800 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20591

RE: Front Range Airport Sequestration Concern

Dear Administrator Huerta:

On behalf of the members of the Aurora Economic Development Council, I am writing to express concern over the potential closure of the Front Range Airport (FTG) Air Traffic Control Tower as a result of the budget sequester. Created in 1982, FTG is a general aviation airport and is the reliever airport with the closest proximity to Denver International Airport (DIA), the world's fourteenth busiest airport, just nine miles away. The closure of the FTG tower would surely compromise the most efficient use of the regional airspace.

The greatest concern, however, is the potential that a tower closure may impede the application and development process of Spaceport Colorado. Spaceport designation for Colorado and for FTG would benefit our nation greatly. FTG's unique location provides easy access to a major international airport and a large metropolitan area, yet it is remote enough to allow for horizontal space vehicle launches. This location would allow a person from anywhere in the United States to fly into DIA, make the short trip to FTG, and travel halfway around the world in a matter of hours.

Furthermore, the infrastructure at FTG provides an ideal test site for Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV). FTG would be an effective partner for our nation's military entities in need of a test site for UAVs.

I would like to respectfully request that you reconsider the closure of the control tower at FTG for the benefit of both the state and the country. If you have any questions or would like to discuss these issues further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Wendy Mitchell', is written over a light blue circular graphic element.

Wendy Mitchell
President and CEO

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