



Township of Egg Harbor

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Letter to the Editor
The Press of Atlantic City
1000 W. Washington Avenue
Pleasantville, New Jersey 08232

Dear Editor:

As the Mayor of a southern New Jersey community, I recognize the need to support the region's economy and the preservation of the regional tourism and casino industry that employs tens of thousands of the region's residents. Many of our township resident's jobs depend on it.

Egg Harbor Township, the largest municipality in Atlantic County, faces continual pressure from a variety of outside influences that could have significant impact on our residents. It should come as no surprise some municipal leaders and residents, voiced concerns and posed key questions about the proposal to divert 50,000 flights from Philadelphia International Airport to Atlantic City International Airport.

It is our job to manage and balance the many demands, regulations and proposed plans put upon our burgeoning township from the state and the Pinelands Commission and now from the plan proposed by Congressmen Rob Andrews (D-NJ) and Joe Sestak (D-PA) for the benefit of the airport which calls Egg Harbor Township home.

Designated by the Pinelands Commission as a growth area, EHT must deal with the effects on our community of focused growth within the confines of our township borders. This focused growth also creates encroachment issues for the Atlantic City International Airport.

We were pleased to learn the following when we expressed our concerns to the South Jersey Transportation Authority which owns and manages the airport:

- The significant increase in flights to the airport should not negatively impact their EHT neighbors because the airport site is so large that the noise would be contained within the airport property.
- Because Atlantic City International Airport owns its airspace, they have said that planes do not have to circle arriving flights over the township while waiting to be queued for landing.

I support air service development at Atlantic City International Airport in that the gaming and entertainment industry in Atlantic City will only benefit it by bringing more carriers and destinations to the local market. By making Atlantic City easier to reach by more direct flights and access to a broader range of U.S. markets, the region's convention and meeting business will grow exponentially.

In moving forward, we insist that EHT and our neighbors in nearby Atlantic County municipalities be included in discussions and proposals so that we will know the facts as we represent the best interests of our constituents.

Lastly, as it was agreed many years ago when the South Jersey Transportation was formed, EHT as the host community should be compensated to offset the cost associated with additional traffic, ambulance, police and fire service in support of the airport and unfortunately the potential risks our residents are exposed to as a result of the increased flights around any major airport.

The airport takes up a large geographic portion of our town and is not a tax ratable.

Sincerely,

James J. McCullough
Mayor