



Seaplane Pilots Association

4315 Highland Park Blvd. • Suite C • Lakeland, FL 33813 • Phone (863) 701-7979 • Fax (863) 701-7588

March 20, 2003

The Honorable Marion Blakey
Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Ave SW
AOA-1 Room 1010
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Mr. Blakey:

The Seaplane Pilots Association, an individual membership association with over 7,000 members, is deeply concerned that recent airspace concessions to Disney in the form of Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFRs) set overwhelmingly negative precedents for aviation in this country.

United States airspace is a public asset, held in the public's trust by the Federal Government. Airspace is not, and should never be, for sale or rent to private individuals or corporations. By all indications, that line has been crossed, and Disney has successfully 'purchased' the airspace over its commercial enterprises using political capital.

We might understand the implementation of special airspace restrictions if there was a credible threat, but the FAA's chief spokesman told CNN "there has been no credible threat" to these facilities. Absent such a threat, the FAA's action can only be classified as speculative. Shall we next speculate that terrorists may strike anywhere, anytime, and hence all U.S. Airspace must be closed until further notice??

Even if the FAA resists shuttering the entire aviation industry, how will you respond when (not if) companies, cities, school boards – perhaps even concerned homeowners - rush in to grab their piece of the American sky? How do you justify 'protecting' Disney from the same risk faced by Six Flags, Universal Studios, or Wally's World of Mini Golf?

We feel strongly that the decision to cede Federal airspace to the Disney Corporation is dead wrong, and must be reversed immediately.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Volk".

Michael Volk
President