

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 12, 2007

The Honorable Mary E. Peters  
Secretary  
Department of Transportation  
400 7<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Peters:

We write today to express our concern regarding the conditions of the Atlanta Air Route Traffic Control Center (Atlanta Center) located in Hampton, Georgia. While this facility is distinguished as the busiest en route air traffic control center in the world, the working conditions within are unfortunately unacceptably poor and are having a detrimental impact on the ability of controllers to do their jobs. We urge the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to remedy the situation immediately.

The Georgia Congressional Delegation is concerned that the poor conditions at Atlanta Center are affecting the health of employees at the facility while detrimentally impacting the safety and efficiency of the airspace for which they are responsible. Controllers who should be concentrating on airplanes are instead distracted by a leaking roof and exposure to environmental dangers such as asbestos, mold and other air contaminants. Furthermore, as the Atlanta Center is one of the busiest air traffic control facilities in the country, we remain significantly concerned of the potential impact of this continuing problem on the entire National Airspace System.

It is particularly alarming that a contractor hired by the FAA to perform work at Atlanta Center has decided to issue a work stoppage due to the mold, citing the need to "act to protect the well being and safety of all of our employees." Yet, in the same building, air traffic controllers are required by the FAA to report to work everyday, and for many controllers they are reporting for six day work weeks.

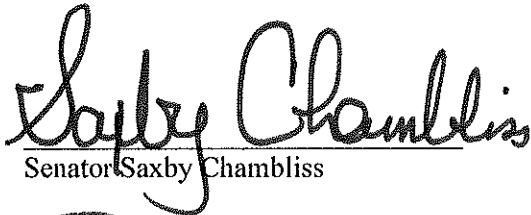
In January 2007, controllers from the Atlanta Center joined Hampton, GA area Congressman Lynn Westmoreland in his Congressional office to discuss the conditions of the facility with FAA ATO En Route and Oceanic Services Director, Rick Day. Since that meeting, leaks continue to occur, conditions have not improved, and the Agency has done little to improve the air quality for its employees. On July 24, 2007 the poor conditions at the Atlanta Center were highlighted during a hearing of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. At the hearing, panel Members and FAA officials heard accounts of the deplorable conditions at Atlanta Center and viewed images of air traffic controllers working traffic while forced to hold umbrellas to keep their equipment dry, which has occurred at least three times in the last year.

The Atlanta Center houses dedicated, hardworking employees that have an enormous amount of responsibility to ensure the safety of the flying public. The FAA, meanwhile, has a responsibility to ensure a safe workplace for these employees. The lack of urgency in correcting this problem is frustrating for the entire Georgia delegation and we urge you to correct the problems of mold, air quality, and the leaking roof immediately.

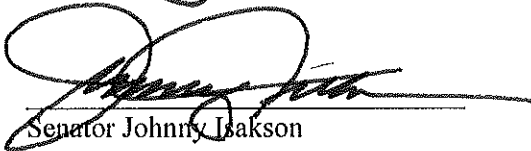
The Honorable Mary E. Peters  
Re: Atlanta Center, ATC Facility  
October 12, 2007

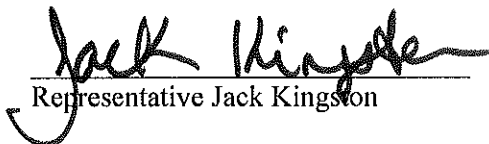
Thank you for your attention to this matter of significance to the flying public. We look forward to your response and to working jointly with you to find a solution to the conditions at Atlanta Center.


Sincerely,

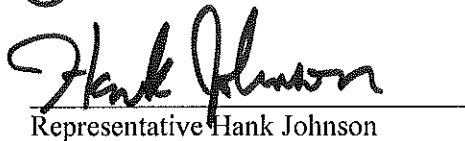
  
Senator Saxby Chambliss

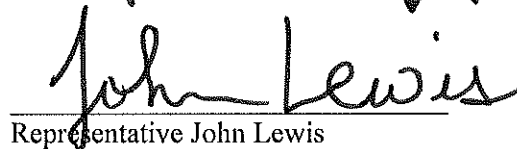
  
Representative Lynn Westmoreland

  
Senator Johnny Isakson

  
Representative Jack Kingston

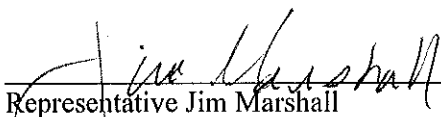
  
Representative Sanford Bishop

  
Representative Hank Johnson

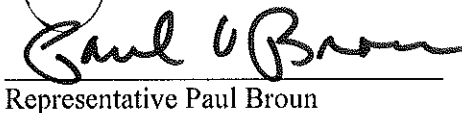
  
Representative John Lewis

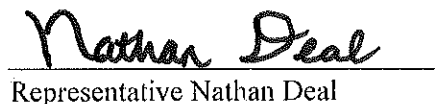
  
Representative Tom Price

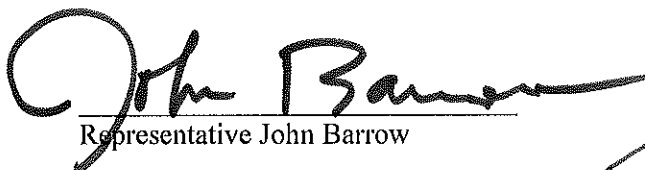
  
Representative John Linder

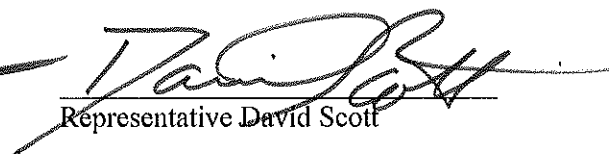
  
Representative Jim Marshall

  
Representative Phil Gingrey

  
Representative Paul Brown

  
Representative Nathan Deal

  
Representative John Barrow

  
Representative David Scott

Cc: Robert Sturgell, FAA Acting Administrator  
Douglas Murphy, Southern Region Regional Administrator  
Rick Day, VP of Enroute & Oceanic Services  
Walt Cochran, Eastern Enroute Service Director