

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-4402**

ENERGY AND COMMERCE  
COMMITTEE  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
HEALTH  
ENERGY AND AIR QUALITY  
COMMERCE, TRADE AND  
CONSUMER PROTECTION  
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
COMMITTEE

June 8, 2009

Mr. J. Randolph Babbitt  
Administrator  
Federal Aviation Administration  
800 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20591

Dear Administrator Babbitt:

It has come to my attention that the Federal Aviation Administration intends to implement an upgrade to the legacy Radar and Flight Data processing equipment, referred to as "Host", at the Salt Lake Air Route Traffic Control Center.

It is my understanding Salt Lake Airport will be the first airport to receive this new equipment. The new system, En Route Automation Modernization (ERAM), will be responsible for processing all of the critical flight safety data for the Intermountain West, and is scheduled for operation beginning on June 13, 2009.

Some of my constituents in Utah have contacted me to share concerns about the stability of the system and the possibility that ERAM has outstanding issues that should be resolved. It is my understanding that systems engineers may not be able to receive all of the critical error reports necessary to maintain and control the hardware and software, while air traffic controllers have reported losing flight plan data stemming from aircraft under their control.

These appear to be serious concerns. As you may know, Salt Lake Airport is very unique. It is surrounded by the Wasatch and Oquirrh Mountain ranges on all sides and it is of great importance to me to prioritize passenger safety at the airport. I ask you to look into this matter at your earliest possible convenience, given the short timeframe for expected implementation of ERAM.

Thank you for your prompt consideration of this request. Please do not hesitate to contact me or my staffer, Ms. Kristen Lingley, with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



JIM MATHESON  
Member of Congress