



December 4, 2007

Contact:
Rudy Marconi,
(203) 431-2774

AIRSPACE ALLIANCE NAMES CHAIRMAN, OFFICERS

December 4, 2007 - The Alliance for Sensible Airspace Planning (AfSAP) has appointed Rudy Marconi, First Selectman of Ridgefield, as its Chairman. Woody Bliss, First Selectman of Weston, and Evonne Klein, First Selectman of Darien, have been named Vice Chairmen.

Selectmen Marconi, Bliss and Klein will make up the AfSAP's executive committee. Judy Neville, former First Selectman of New Canaan, has been appointed Chief Operating Officer and will continue in her current capacity spearheading the litigation against the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), as well as the AfSAP's lobbying and grassroots efforts; she will also manage the daily operations of the Alliance. In addition, Jerry Ellis of New Canaan was appointed business advisor, Heather Wolf of Pound Ridge as information advisor, Kate Buch of Darien as financial director, and Jon Powers of Pound Ridge as financial management advisor for the Alliance.

AfSAP represents the chief elected officials and residents of fourteen cities and towns: the towns of Bridgewater, Darien, Greenwich, New Canaan, New Milford, Redding, Ridgefield, Weston, Westport, Wilton and the cities of Danbury, Norwalk and Stamford in Connecticut and the town of Pound Ridge in New York, all of whom have come together to oppose the FAA's airspace redesign proposal. The Alliance opposes the redesign plan because their communities will be adversely affected by the FAA's plan to re-route numerous flights over their communities, as well as create a new holding pattern at very low altitudes. The FAA's plan will have unacceptable health, safety, environmental, noise and quality-of-life impacts on our region.

Currently, the Alliance has launched a three-pronged response that includes filing suit against the FAA in the Second Circuit Court of Appeals on November 1, implementing a lobbying effort at both federal and state levels and garnering already existent constituent opposition through a grassroots campaign.

"I am very pleased at the continued support by all the members of the Alliance who see the FAA's plan as a regional issue that would have irreparable, harmful repercussions on our quality of life.

The progress made in the last three months to aggressively oppose the misguided airspace redesign plan is nothing but remarkable and demonstrates our solidarity on this issue,” said Chairman Marconi. “We welcome the City of Danbury and the Towns of New Milford and Bridgewater who have recently joined our Alliance.”

Connecticut Governor Jodi Rell and Attorney General Richard Blumenthal jointly announced their opposition to the re-design plan by filing a separate lawsuit with the Department of Environmental Protection in early November. Both suits are intended to halt the new FAA flight path plan that would allow an increased number of large aircraft, at unacceptably lower altitudes, to fly over a large region of southwestern Connecticut causing considerable damage to the environment.

#