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To the FAA:

The DC Ranch Community Council is a governing board representing nearly 7,000 residents in one of Arizona's premiere master-planned communities. Located in Scottsdale, DC Ranch represents a vibrant, diverse, and influential group of residents in a location next to the pristine McDowell Sonoran Preserve and Tonto National Forest land areas.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the recent FAA plan to address concerns about routes that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) implemented in September 2014 at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport.

While the recent proposed agreement between the City of Phoenix and FAA does not contemplate eastbound departure routes from Sky Harbor Airport, DC Ranch and other Scottsdale communities have been negatively impacted by the 2014 flight path changes. Prior to 2014, the eastbound departure flight paths did not fly over DC Ranch as aircraft flew north in a path east of the community which is a much less densely populated area. Since the NextGen revisions, DC Ranch and other heavily populated areas in and around Scottsdale are directly in the new flight paths.

Since 2016, DC Ranch has supported efforts by Rep. David Schweikert and the Scottsdale City Council to communicate the new flight paths' impacts on the greater Scottsdale community to FAA via their written correspondence. We have also written the FAA on behalf of our community.

We are concerned about public safety and noise due to the new paths being over far more densely populated areas, as well as the lack of opportunities for public comment during the NextGen National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process.

Understanding the important nature of the NextGen initiative, DC Ranch hopes to foster a positive dialogue with FAA and other regional stakeholders during this new opportunity for community involvement and comment. DC Ranch is open to discussing flight path alignments and other procedural mitigation options such as engine throttling, ground cover, altitude levels, technological advancements and others.

We request an opportunity for the DC Ranch Community Council to meet with FAA representatives in person to discuss this issue in the coming weeks as the FAA public process moves forward.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Christine Irish'.

Christine Irish, Executive Director
DC Ranch Community Council