

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
House of Representatives
State House, Boston 02133-1054

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Chairman
Committee on Public Safety
ROOM 39, STATE HOUSE

April 22, 1999

Honorable Cambridge City Council
Cambridge City Hall
795 Cambridge Street
Cambridge, MA 02139

RE: Logan Airport Expansion Proposal

Dear Honorable Council Members:

I recently forwarded comments regarding Massport's proposed expansion at Logan Airport to the MEPA Unit of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs. I have enclosed a copy of these comments for your further review.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have questions or need any further information, please feel free to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.
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encl.



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April 21, 1999

Robert Durand, Secretary
MEPA Unit Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, 20th Floor
Boston, MA 02202

RE: Draft Environmental Impact Report EOE #10458
Logan Airport Expansion

Dear Secretary Durand:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposal of the Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport) for the expansion of Logan International Airport (Logan). The proposed expansion of Logan will have a devastating impact on the quality of life in my legislative district, particularly upon those who reside in East Somerville and East Cambridge.

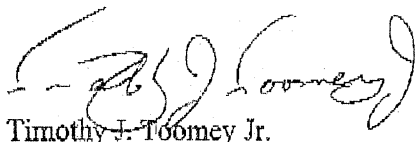
If Massport moves forward on its proposal to expand Logan, the number of flights over East Somerville and East Cambridge will increase three-fold to approximately **20,000 operations each year**. The runway at Logan that most directly impacts my legislative district is 33L. Currently, runway 33L generates approximately 6,000 operations annually. However, with the proposed expansion, runway 33L usage -- and the resulting noise and air pollution -- will **triple**. It is unfair to require the predominantly working class neighborhoods to the West of Logan to shoulder so much of the burden of the proposed expansion.

Another major problem with the proposed expansion of Logan is the fact that at best this is a temporary solution to the delay problems there. By 2005 Logan will experience as many, if not more delays than in 1998 **with the proposed expansion**, according to Massport's own estimates. The short term relief that Massport's expansion proposal would provide does not warrant the permanent loss of quality of life for the residents of the communities to the West of Logan.

I agree that the Commonwealth has to take action to address the problem of increased air traffic in eastern Massachusetts. The best way to do this, however, is to follow the lead of our competitors to the South. Both New York City and Washington DC have secondary airports that can handle the increasing demand for air travel. It is time for the Commonwealth to explore the possibility of expanding one of the regional airports already in existence. This will accomplish two major goals: decreasing demand at Logan and more equitably distributing air traffic throughout the Commonwealth. Such a solution would be beneficial to the business interests as well as the human interests currently at stake. I strongly urge the MEPA unit to deny any permits for the expansion of Logan at this time.

Thank you for your attention to this very important matter.

Sincerely Yours,



Timothy J. Toomey Jr.

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Comm. & Rpts Other City Officers 3/15
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A communication was received from
City Council Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.,
regarding the Logan Airport Expansion
Proposal.

In City Council April 26, 1999

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