

Why it is imperative to have FAA field hearings in Maine on the Condor MOA Environmental Impact Statement

For nearly three years the people of western Maine have opposed lowering the floor of the Condor Military Operating Area (MOA) to allow low level jet training by the Massachusetts Air National Guard (Mass ANG) and other military aircraft. At this time, it is imperative to have FAA field hearings in Maine to examine the proposal for the following reasons:

Truthfulness. To date, not one word of testimony has been made under oath. The Mass ANG and their hired contractor Environmental Resource Management (ERM) can, and have, made false, illogical, and disingenuous statements without any fear of cross examination under oath.

Fairness. In the entire process thus far, the residents of the effected area have not had the opportunity to address the FAA directly. All our comments are filtered by the Mass ANG. It is a fundamental principle of justice that we be heard before the individuals that will rule on the EIS on a level playing field.

Accountability. The loud denials of responsibility have already started by the Mass ANG. They point a finger directly at the FAA. But, through legal agreements they have both been "cooperating agencies" from the beginning. In fact, written documentation exists to verify the Mass ANG claim that the FAA is fully expected to approve the proposal based on an earlier Environmental Assessment (EA). The quality of the analysis in the EA brings the validity of any approval into question. We should know exactly who is accountable before any decision is made.

Precedent. The last time this proposal was made in the 90's, the FAA came to listen directly to the people.

If you agree with these fundamental principles of democracy please let your elected officials know about the need for FAA hearings in Maine.