



ChicagoLand Glider Council

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Anthony D. Roetzel, Manager, Operations Support Group
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Federal Aviation Administration
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Mr. Roetzel,

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I represent the members of the glider and soaring community as the President of the ChicagoLand Glider Council. The Council has been in existence since 1938. We have 400+ members located in and around the Chicagoland area encompassing glider clubs located in Minooka IL, Hinckley IL, Hampshire IL, Freeport IL, Lake Forest IN and Beloit WI. Many of these members are commercial airline pilots.

I would like to voice the membership's grave concerns about the impact that the O'Hare Airport Class B airspace expansion will have on our soaring community and our operations. Specifically the western expansion of the airspace out to the 30NM ring having a floor of 4,000 feet AGL.

As I am sure that you are aware, gliders are the most energy efficient of aircraft which relies heavily on rising columns of warm air (thermals). What you might not be aware of is that a ceiling of 4,000 feet AGL (approximately 3,000 feet MSL or what we refer to as "tow" altitude) means that flying a gliders in that area equates to a greatly elevated risk of a forced landing in a highly populated area. While powered aircraft have several thousand feet of airspace to cruise in, in practical terms a ceiling of 4,000 feet precludes any flying of gliders in this important and large expanse (approximately 200 mi²) of north-south airspace. This is why we oppose the O'Hare Airport Class B airspace expansion.

While we feel that the O'Hare Airport Class B airspace expansion is detrimental to our sport, we understand the underlying needs of the FAA. We feel that a reasonable compromise is a floor of 6,000 feet MSL with no expansion past 30NM. We feel that this will allow commercial traffic to safely fly into and out of ORD while allowing gliders to operate freely and safely in this area.

If you would like to speak with me personally, please feel free to contact me using the information shown below.

Thank You,

John H. DeRosa
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