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### **Take Action on the Statue of Liberty and Governors Island ATM Voluntary Agreement**

We need your help submitting public comments on National Park Service (NPS) plans for the Statue of Liberty and Governors Island National Monuments. The NPS and FAA are seeking the comments on a proposed commercial air tour management (ATM) voluntary agreement for the two monuments. Public comments are being accepted during a 30-day period that started on Oct. 21 and will end on Nov. 21.

Since advocacy groups opposed to air tours are currently submitting comments to stop this voluntary agreement, HAI strongly encourages tour operators to submit their own comments. To assist in this effort, HAI has created a template to help simplify the comment-submission process. You can submit an HAI-endorsed prewritten comment directly to NPS in three simple steps:

1. View (and customize, if you like) your comments to the NPS on the voluntary agreement [here](#).
2. Enter your contact information.
3. Submit the comments.

Thank you for engaging in this important advocacy effort, and please encourage others to submit comments too.

## 5G Coalition Letter

Earlier this week, Helicopter Association International and general aviation industry leaders sent a joint letter to US government officials urging them to extend the deadline to retrofit aircraft with upgraded radar altimeters (RAs) as well as extend signal interference mitigations through the end of 2023. The extension of these mitigations is critical to allow air carriers time to complete the retrofit without causing air traffic disruptions, incidents, and delays. Just this year, the FAA has reported over 100 incidents of potential 5G interference, most of which have been found to have a direct RA impact.

Although our industry is doing everything it can to avoid an aviation crisis caused by 5G deployment, we are unable to fully meet deadlines due to global supply-chain issues and the FAA's lack of certified solutions for one key RA. Earlier this year, AT&T and Verizon voluntarily agreed to delay their C band 5G usage until July 2023. Yet, as 19 additional providers plan to enter the 5G market next year, it is necessary that the federal government provide a long-term mitigation plan to ensure public safety and economic stability.

Now is the time for leadership at federal agencies and the White House to implement a solution that allows 5G to move forward and avoid further flight delays, cancellations, and safety issues. Cooperation and coordination between the FAA, Federal Communications Commission, and National Telecommunications and Information Administration are necessary for a safe and successful 5G transition.

To read our industry's coalition letter, select the following [link](#).

## FAA PIREP Study

Helicopter Association International invites rotor-wing pilots to participate in an FAA study that explores the concept of filing and retrieving pilot reports (PIREPs) over VHF (very high frequency) radio. The study will use artificial intelligence, natural language processing, and cloud computing to let pilots report and retrieve PIREPs without having to talk to air traffic controllers or flight service specialists. If successful, this study could pave the way toward an additional means to file and retrieve PIREPs. Pilot reports are extremely beneficial in improving the accuracy of weather forecasts and assisting pilots to develop mitigation plans for weather hazards encountered during flight.

This experimental proof-of-concept system is being deployed at Will Rogers World Airport (KOKC), Oklahoma, and Nenana Airport (PANN), Alaska. Volunteers flying in the vicinity are needed and participation is compensated. For additional information and to sign up, click this [link](#).

## Update on US Election Results

The US midterm election occurred last week, yet there are still a few close races that remain undecided in both the House and the Senate. As the final election results roll in, here is what our readers should know.

This year's election results will impact the president's agenda and the nation's direction for the next two years. Democrats, who at present control the House, have lost their majority to the Republican Party. This week, the Republican Party captured the 218 House seats needed to attain the majority. This result is expected to give the GOP powerful veto capability regarding President Biden's agenda.

In comparison, Democrats retained control over the Senate after winning the Nevada seat over the weekend. The 2022 midterm elections will reorder the balance of power in Washington, D.C., and across the nation.

Now that the GOP has taken control of the House, Rep. Sam Graves (R-Mo.-06) is expected to become the leader of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure in the House, while Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.) is expected to lead the US Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Both Graves and Cantwell have been great supporters of the general aviation industry, and we look forward to continuing our work with them.

## Helicopters Will Continue to Fly Over North Mesa

Helicopter Association International commends Mesa, Arizona, for supporting the local helicopter industry. Last week, Mesa's city council moved "to solidify the status of an area north of Falcon Field as a high-helicopter traffic corridor to shape the city's future planning in the vicinity."

MD Helicopters and Boeing, two of the Falcon District's biggest employers, have manufactured helicopters in the area since 1980. Mesa City Manager Chris Brady and Councilman David Luna understand the importance of protecting both companies and their helicopter testing flight routes.

As the city conducts zoning and planning studies, the city council has carefully decided what can be built below this well-established rotor flight path. Due to the growing number of helicopter noise complaints throughout the nation, residential areas and helicopter corridors tend to conflict with each other. People living near helicopter routes are often upset by the noise, regardless of a pilot's attempt to fly neighborly. Aware of this, the city recommended that industrial use of the area would be most compatible with helicopter overflights.

Although the city cannot restrict landowners from building residential homes nearby, they can create incentives for owners to rezone land for

industrial purposes. The city is also planning to notify potential property owners of nearby airports and require land developers to sign over airspace rights.

To ensure that the community remains content and the helicopter industry continues to succeed in Mesa, the city is making sure that land designations are set in stone. HAI is impressed by the city's level of awareness in preventing community incompatibility with well-established helicopter routes.

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*THE Trade Association for the International VTOL Community*  
*Working Each Day to Keep the Rotors Turning*

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703-683-4646 | +1 703 6834646

[www.rotor.org](http://www.rotor.org) | [rotor@rotor.org](mailto:rotor@rotor.org)



1920 Ballenger Ave., 4th Fl., Alexandria, VA 22314-2898 USA