



State of New Jersey

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
P.O. Box 001
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0001

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

August 18, 2025

The Honorable Bryan Bedford
Administrator, Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Mr. Bedford,

I am writing to request the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) help in reducing and rerouting nonessential helicopter flights to New York from the HHI Heliport in Kearny, New Jersey. Thousands of tourist and charter flights fly each year at low altitude over two of New Jersey's most densely populated communities, Hoboken and Jersey City, causing disruptive noise and raising serious safety concerns. I ask the FAA to take immediate action to curb these disturbances and protect our communities.

As you know, on April 10, 2025, a tourist helicopter broke apart in midair and crashed into the Hudson River just 75 feet from the Jersey City waterfront, killing all six people on board. In a prior incident on March 11, 2018, an open-door FlyNYON tour helicopter, departing from HHI Heliport in Kearny, flew over Jersey City and crashed into the East River in New York City, killing five passengers. Helicopters departing from HHI Heliport to New York fly directly over Jersey City and Hoboken, placing residential neighborhoods beneath their flight paths in danger. While the 2018 and 2025 crashes happened over water, a future crash over land could result in even more devastating consequences. We must not wait for such a tragedy to occur before taking decisive action.

Aviation regulation falls under the FAA's authority and therefore I am requesting your leadership and partnership to protect our communities. In December 2023, the FAA, in cooperation with the National Park Service, adopted an Air Tour Management Plan that capped tourist helicopter flights over Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park at 1,548 per year (down from over 11,300). I urge similar bold action for New Jersey, where the areas in need of protection are the homes, schools, and streets where our residents live.

August 18, 2025

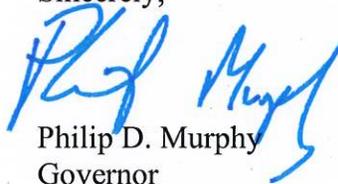
Page 2

I respectfully request that the FAA implement the following measures to address nonessential helicopters in New Jersey:

1. Prohibit or sharply reduce the number of nonessential helicopter flights operating in New Jersey. The FAA should immediately exercise its authority (through regulations, air tour management plans, or emergency orders) to prohibit or reduce tourist and charter flights operating in New Jersey.
2. Mandate safer, less disruptive flight paths for remaining helicopter operations. The FAA should direct helicopters away from residential areas and over water wherever possible. For example, flights departing HHI Heliport in Kearny could be routed over Newark Bay instead of directly above Hoboken and Jersey City neighborhoods. This change would significantly reduce noise above our residential communities and enhance safety by keeping helicopters over water.
3. Limit operating hours for nonessential flights from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Residents deserve peace and quiet in the mornings and evenings. The FAA can work with the HHI Heliport to execute a voluntary noise abatement program to reduce community disruptions.

I am confident that under your leadership, the FAA can devise a solution that addresses the concerns of our communities while increasing flight safety.

Sincerely,



Philip D. Murphy
Governor