June 28, 2019

Daniel K. Elwell
Acting Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20591

RE: Industry Concerns Regarding Proposal to End Non-Essential Helicopter Flights in NYC

Dear Acting Administrator Elwell,

On behalf of the 3,000-plus members of the Helicopter Association International I’d like to take this opportunity to comment on recent congressional correspondence submitted to your office in response to the June 10, 2019, Agusta A109E helicopter crash requesting immediate issue of Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFRs) to end non-essential helicopter flights over New York City.

HAI opposes, in the strongest language possible, any proposal to restrict airspace access to a segment of the aviation industry. Helicopter service is a critical component of the transportation infrastructure in the city and surrounding region.

The June 10, 2019, accident was a sad and tragic event and needs to be fully investigated. HAI remains unwavering in its support for the FAA and NTSB as the efforts continue to examine the circumstances of the accident. It is our hope that the facts of the case will provide the FAA and the industry a clear picture of what led to the fatal event, as well as information that can be used to improve flight safety across the industry.

HAI is committed to safety and is setting up a regional stakeholder meeting to discuss safety issues specific to New York City area. We will communicate with your office soon to invite you to the discussion.

I thank you for your attention on this issue.

Sincerely,

Matthew S. Zuccaro
President & CEO
Helicopter Association International