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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6350

October 5, 2001

Dr. Condoleeza Rice
Assistant to the President for
National Security Affairs
Executive Office of the President
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Dr. Rice:

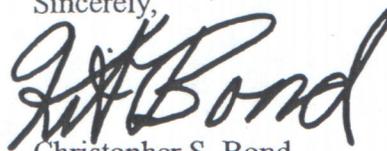
On October 3, 2001, Senator Robert Bennett wrote you to express his concern about the prohibition against operations under Visual Flight Rules (VFR) in enhanced Class B airspace. I share his concerns about the impact the present prohibition is having on our constituents, most notably small businesses.

In Missouri, 14 airports – 8 in St. Louis and 6 in Kansas City – are affected by the present Class B airspace prohibition. The grounding of over 1500 aircraft and nearly 5000 pilots in Missouri alone is having a tremendous negative economic impact, which will cause lasting damage to the infrastructure that supports general aviation. I introduced legislation this week that will assist our nation's small businesses that have been affected by this national disaster. Small businesses suffering under the present prohibition, however, cannot begin their economic recovery until it has been modified or lifted.

I concur with Senator Bennett that you face difficult decisions about the balance between national security and the future economic viability of these small businesses. Thank you for taking our concerns into consideration at this critical time.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I may be of any assistance to you or have your staff contact Dan Donovan on the Small Business Committee at (202) 224

Sincerely,



Christopher S. Bond
Ranking Member

cc: Senator Robert F. Bennett