

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 5, 2026

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

Dear Administrator Bedford:

We write today to raise concerns that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is considering whether to decommission Instrument Landing System (ILS) technology and technology that supports the ILS at the Double Eagle II Airport (AEG) located near Albuquerque, New Mexico. We respectfully urge the FAA to maintain use of this critical technology given the unique demands of New Mexico that require aviation redundancy to maintain public safety and to provide our office with a briefing on airspace safety. In light of this change, the recent crash outside Ruidoso and other recent aviation incidents involving navigation technology issues, more information is needed before moving forward.

ILS is a ground based guide for aircrafts typically used when pilots are unable to find the runway. It is considered a precision approach with both vertical and lateral guidance toward the runway that is independent from GPS navigation systems. Although it is widely considered “antiquated” it complements modern GPS-enabled navigation that only provides lateral guidance to the runway. While GPS-enabled navigation works in most conditions, New Mexico has its own set of unique airspace challenges due to nearby military bases.

New Mexico is home to the White Sands Missile Range (WSMR), where our Department of Defense (DoD) personnel and military work day and night to develop, test, and support the technologies needed to protect our country. However, because their work often requires the deliberate use of electronic warfare technologies, it has often affected nearby aircrafts in civilian airspace. As recently as May, a medical transport plane carrying four passengers crashed near Ruidoso, New Mexico, after the pilot of the aircraft experienced navigational issues while GPS jamming technology testing was concurrently underway nearby at WSMR.

The national security work being conducted in New Mexico impacts our skies. The Double Eagle II Airport conducts training flights, hosts general aviation such as air ambulances, corporate flights, military flights, charter, and private flights of the tens of thousands of flights that happen there annually. It is home to three law enforcement agencies that heavily utilize the airport including Albuquerque Police Department, Bernalillo County Sheriff’s Department, and New Mexico State Police. The airport’s ILS technology is also especially critical for the numerous students learning to become pilots and those who need to be trained to use ILS technology.

The distinct nature of New Mexico and these recent aviation incidents demonstrates the extreme caution the FAA must take in changing, phasing out or altering redundant navigational technology within the state. We urge the FAA to not decommission this technology as a matter of public safety and request a briefing on the non-rule making study prior to any finalized decisions as soon as possible.

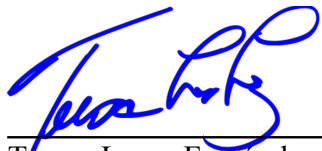
Sincerely,



Gabe Vasquez
Member of Congress



Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress



Teresa Leger Fernandez
Member of Congress