

Proposed Rule Comments

October 28,

2005

FROM: Phil Baridon, Ph.D., CFII  
TO: FAA  
RE: Docket# 17005

I oppose the creation of a permanent ADIZ for the greater Washington area. I was born in Washington and have lived within 10 miles of the capitol for 59 years. Until last April I worked as a senior policy analyst for the Criminal Division of the U.S. Justice Department. Much of this work during my last four years was terrorism related. Retirement has provided me an opportunity to speak my mind more freely (within statutory proscriptions).

As a child here, I enjoyed the cartoon series: "There Ought to be a Law." As a culture and city we embrace that as a solution to our serious problems. Sometimes, however, a new law or rule - no matter how well intentioned - isn't the answer. Sometimes the unintended consequences overwhelm any marginal benefit. Clearly, a permanent DC ADIZ is a poster child for that effect.

There is no need for me to repeat all of the reasons others have offered on this. You could probably recite them from memory. A sanitized airspace offers good protection for well-intentioned pilots who want to avoid bent aluminum. We have extended that great concept, however, into the realm of people with very bad intentions. It just doesn't fit; I wish it did. Please don't "press on" with this unwise option. We need better options - not just one that sounds good.

I hope someone actually reads this. If not, then just record it as one more "no" vote.