



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Washington  
Office

1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250

File Code: 5700

Date: August 2, 2011

Mr. Robert Benzon  
Major Investigations Division (AS-10)  
National Transportation Safety Board  
490 L'Enfant Plaza East, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20594

Dear Mr. Benzon:

The Forest Service (FS) values the opportunity to comment on the Carson Helicopters, Inc. (CHI) Letter of Petition of March 11, 2011, about the Weaverville Helicopter N612AZ accident that claimed nine lives. The FS has reviewed the CHI Letter of Petition as well as response letters to the petition from the engine manufacturer, GE Aviation, and the airframe manufacturer, Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation (SIK).

CHI claimed its March 11, 2011 Letter of Petition was about new information. All but one item (E-POLY) did not address new information but rather reintroduced findings that were addressed by the NTSB factual report of December 7, 2010, and the response letters submitted by GE Aviation and SIK expertly refuted CHI by providing factual evidence that these claims were not applicable to the outcome of the accident. The E-POLY item, while being new information, had no bearing on the accident outcome (reference the GE Aviation response letter, paragraph 3).

The FS concurs with the response letters to the CHI Letter of Petition submitted by GE Aviation of July 17, 2011, and SIK dated July 25, 2011. Please feel free to contact Jim Morrison, Forest Service Air Safety Investigator, at (801)540-5331 or [jmorrison@fs.fed.us](mailto:jmorrison@fs.fed.us) with further questions.

Sincerely,

/s/ **T. C. Harbour**

TOM HARBOUR  
Director, Fire and Aviation Management

cc: Jim Morrison

