



City of Huntington Beach

2000 MAIN STREET

CALIFORNIA 92648

Erik Peterson
Mayor

April 16, 2019

The Honorable Stephen Lynch
United States House of Representatives
2109 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: SUPPORT FOR THE AIR TRAFFIC NOISE AND POLLUTION EXPERT CONSENSUS

Dear Congressman Lynch:

On behalf of the City of Huntington Beach, I am writing to express our support for your bill, the Air Traffic Noise and Pollution Expert Consensus, which would require the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to convene a committee of experts to examine the health impacts of air traffic noise and pollution. The City of Huntington Beach, like so many other cities across California, has struggled with air traffic noise pollution and believes that the issue demands serious study.

The City of Huntington Beach is positioned near both the Long Beach Airport and John Wayne Airport, which has always resulted in an audible level of air traffic noise in our city limits. However, the City has observed an increase in noise complaints as the FAA has implemented its Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen), which created new flight paths designed to minimize travel time and flight length, and subsequently increased airplane activity over our residential areas.

At City Council meetings and out in our community, we hear first-hand from our residents impacted by air traffic noise. We hear their stories of mental and physical health impacts, including headaches, sleep interruption and deprivation, anxiety, and depression. To that end, the City Council created a Jet Noise Commission to advise City Council on issues related to jet noise. Although the impacts are clear to our residents who live with air traffic noise daily, we lack definitive studies of the impacts to refer to in our conversations with the FAA. Your bill would give FAA decisionmakers crucial and reliable data as FAA continues to implement NextGen nationwide.

Thank you for your time and consideration of the City's views. We appreciate the challenges that you and your colleagues face in creating a path forward to accommodate both technological improvements in aviation and citizen wellbeing. We are grateful for your efforts to establish guidelines for this issue, and we look forward to continuing to work with you.

Sincerely,

Erik Peterson
Mayor
City of Huntington Beach

xc: Congressman Harley Rouda
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Kamala Harris