



July 12, 2021

Congressman Peter A DeFazio, Chairman
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6256

Subject: Support of Proposed Legislation on Aircraft Noise

Dear Congressman DeFazio:

The LAX/Community Noise Roundtable (Roundtable) is focused on addressing noise issues associated with aircraft operations and recommending courses of action to reduce noise over affected communities. As such, the Roundtable is delighted to see the attention aircraft noise has received from the U.S. Congress over recent months with the introduction of bills aimed at addressing community concerns in regard to aircraft noise. The purpose of this letter is to express our support for the two bills recently re-introduced in Congress and to request that your committee move forward with these bills in the legislative process to ensure that they pass into law so that our represented communities may receive potential benefits pertaining to aircraft noise exposure.

The two bills re-introduced in the 117th Congress are provided below along with our reasons for supporting of each of them:

▪ **H.R.389: Safe and Quiet Skies Act**

Summary: This bill applies to commercial air tours. It directs the FAA to adopt National Transportation Safety Board's recommendations that will increase safety and reduce community disruption; requires that tour flights be above 1,500 feet with limited exceptions; requires the noise level from tour flights be no louder than 55 dB on the ground beneath the flights; allows states and localities to impose additional and stricter requirements; and prohibits tour flights over military installations, national cemeteries, national wilderness areas, national parks, and national wildlife refuges.

Reason for Support: The Roundtable is supportive of such legislation to reduce noise from commercial air tour flight activities especially if such flights involve helicopter operations. On occasion, some helicopters hover over residential areas near LAX to conduct plane-spotting activities. Such activities tend to prompt helicopters to operate at very low altitudes and hover over residential communities for extended periods of time, causing noise disturbances to these communities.

▪ **H.R.712: Air Traffic Noise and Pollution Expert Consensus Act**

Summary: This bill requires the FAA to sponsor an Expert Consensus Report issued by the National Academies of Science (NAS) on the health effects of airplanes flying over

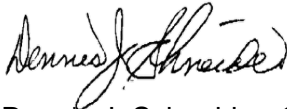
residential areas; and requires the NAS to convene a committee of health and environmental science experts to examine the health impacts of air traffic noise and pollution and issue an Expert Consensus Report with their findings to the Secretary of Health and Human Services, EPA Administrator, and relevant Congressional committees.

Reason for Support: The Roundtable supports research on the health impacts of air traffic and believes such research is long overdue. We also support the immediacy of action as included in the bill.

We understand that there may be additional bills in the works related to aircraft operations and their effect on communities. The Roundtable will continue to monitor and review potential legislation as new information becomes available. Meanwhile, we would like to take this opportunity to express our support for the two pieces of proposed legislation as mentioned in this letter. The Roundtable appreciates Congress taking a leadership role in addressing the increased annoyance communities have towards aircraft operations.

Thank you for your attention to aircraft noise. We trust that our feedback will be of value to you as your committee considers passing much needed legislation that addresses communities' concerns regarding aircraft operations.

Sincerely,



Dennis J. Schneider, Chair
LAX/Community Noise Roundtable

cc: Bill Sponsors
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Alex Padilla
Congressman Ted Lieu
Congressman Alan Lowenthal
Congresswoman Linda Sanchez
Congresswoman Judy Chu
Congresswoman Karen Bass