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Congress of the United States
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August 2, 2012

Michael Huerta, Acting Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20591

Patrick J. Foye, Executive Director
Port Authority of New York/New Jersey
225 Park Avenue South
New York, NY 10003

Dear Acting Administrator Huerta and Executive Director Foye:

I am writing to follow up on an ongoing issue that is of great concern to both myself and my constituency on Long Island – airplane noise from nearby JFK and LaGuardia Airports.

As you may know, Nassau County residents have consistently expressed to both the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANYNJ) that the noise pollution associated with low altitude flight traffic over their homes disrupts their daily lives. As a resident of Mineola, I, myself, can attest that the piercing blare of jet engines of commercial airlines is oppressive. I am determined to seek a solution on behalf of my constituency and I remain committed to attaining the cooperation of both the FAA and the PANYNJ in order to ensure that noise abatement is being given the attention it demands.

My office has fielded numerous testimonials from constituents on airplane noise and after I met with officials at the New York Terminal Radar Approach Control (TRACON) facility in Westbury, I reached out to both the FAA and PANYNJ so as to seek a better understanding of noise abatement procedures. In an October 2011 letter, I asked for the establishment of a single local or toll-free telephone number to field calls from individuals regarding noise concerns and I was advised that that was not a workable idea. While I respectfully disagree with that opinion and at the very least believe a shared database would alleviate confusion, I hope that we can agree that we need to find a common starting point to begin the process of noise abatement over Nassau County

The Town-Village-Aircraft-Safety and Noise Abatement Committee (TVASNAC), a committee that I applaud for engaging in grass-roots tactics in order to restore peace and quiet to localities



on Long Island, has been working tirelessly at meetings with local leaders to determine the best course of action to help solve the issue of aircraft noise over Nassau County. Topics discussed at these meetings have ranged from runway distribution to potential "Part 150" studies. The attendees are knowledgeable on the issues and steadfast in their pursuit of livable conditions in their communities. It is my understanding that at one TVASNAC meeting representatives from each the FAA and PANYNJ agreed to make public their respective responsibilities in mitigating aircraft noise. In order to address the confusion as to each entity's jurisdiction with respect to reducing aircraft noise, I am asking that each agency commit to a memorandum of understanding on the issue. Such a memorandum will serve as a bilateral agreement between the FAA and PANYNJ and represent a formal starting point for residents and local elected officials alike to work with both entities in a manner that reduces noise pollution over the skies of Nassau County.

Individuals must not be endangered in one of the country's most congested airspace corridors. Thousands of flights every day depart and arrive through the tightly-packed New York airspace and I am committed to preserving the quality of life on Long Island and I will continue to ensure that Long Island remains one of the most desirable places to live in our country. I look forward to hearing from each of you on these important matters.

Sincerely,



Carolyn McCarthy
Member of Congress

CC: Carmine Gallo, FAA Regional Administrator for the Eastern Region
Susan M. Baer, Director of Aviation, Port Authority of NY and NJ