

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

October 19, 2016

The Honorable Michael P. Huerta
Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Administrator Huerta:

As members of the Federal Delegation representing the town of Milton, Massachusetts, we write to draw to your attention to the attached September 8, 2016 letter from the Milton Board of Selectmen sent to the Administrator for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) New England Region. The Selectman have requested that the FAA and the Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport) work to provide airplane related noise relief to the community.

Numerous communities in Massachusetts including Milton, Somerville, Cambridge, Hull, East Boston, Belmont and others have recently experienced increased airplane noise. Massport operates Logan International Airport in Boston Massachusetts and has logged over 11,000 noise complaints since January of 2015.¹ During a similar time period in 2012, there were fewer than 1,700 noise-related complaints.² Furthermore, during the past year, over 52,000 jets have flown a path over the same homes and schools in the Milton area.³

This high number of flights over our communities goes well beyond the threshold of being an annoyance, and there is growing concern in our communities that aircraft noise could be affecting human health and causing increased air pollution. This concern is not just anecdotal, and there are several studies showing associations between aircraft noise and various health problems. In fact, a 2013 study by the Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH) and the Boston University School of Public Health (BUSPH) found that older adults may face an increased risk of being hospitalized for cardiovascular disease when exposed to aircraft noise, especially at high levels.⁴

¹ Seltz, Johanna. "FAA hearing more complaints over Logan airplane noise" *The Boston Globe*, Nov. 24, 2015, <https://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/regionals/south/2015/11/24/faa-hearing-more-complaints-over-logan-airplane-noise/CgHxuliUwctegrHOpJS9UP/story.html>.

² Ibid.

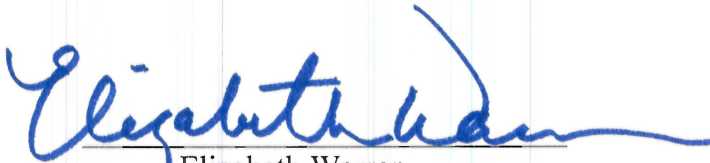
³ Woolhouse, Megan. "Officials will study plane noise after complaints about Logan" *The Boston Globe*, Oct. 7, 2016

⁴ Andrew W. Correia, Junenette L. Peters, Jonathan I. Levy, Steven Melly, and Francesca Dominici "Residential exposure to aircraft noise and hospital admissions for cardiovascular diseases: multi-airport retrospective study", *BMJ*, online Oct. 8, 2013, <http://www.bmj.com/content/347/bmj.f5561>.

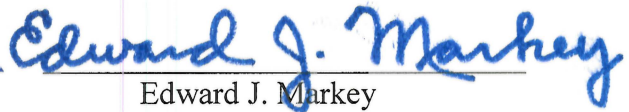
While we are pleased that the FAA and Massport recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to address aircraft noise concerns at Logan International Airport, we were troubled to hear that the stakeholders from the town of Milton and other communities experiencing increased airplane noise were not part of the process. We ask that you please respond to the issues raised by Milton's Board of Selectmen and ensure that the FAA increases community outreach and participation as we work together to provide all of our communities with the relief they deserve. As the FAA works with the Commonwealth, our affected communities deserve a transparent process that provides them with opportunities to provide information and examine data.

Thank you for directing your attention to the concerns of our Massachusetts communities, and we look forward to forward to your reply.

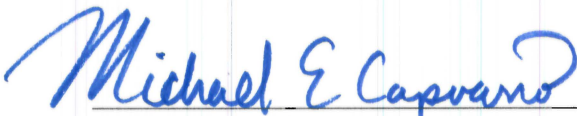
Sincerely,



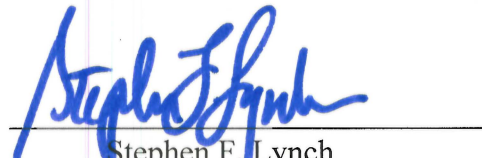
Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Michael E. Capuano
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress