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**Support: HB 310**

**University of Maryland, Baltimore – Study on the Health Effects of Air Traffic Noise**

**Issue:**

- NextGen, the Federal Aviation Administration’s (FAA) effort to modernize air transportation, was implemented at BWI in 2015 as part of the DC Metroplex Project
- NextGen flight paths have increased density and lower altitudes
- Noise complaints from communities under concentrated flight paths have drastically increased since DC Metroplex Project initiation - from 300 per year in 2012 to 1000 per day in 2019
- Exposure to high levels of air traffic noise has been associated with harmful health effects including sleep disturbance, high blood pressure, heart disease, anxiety, and learning difficulties in children
- Maryland has made significant efforts to request that the FAA alter flight paths to remedy this issue but the response from the FAA has been slow

**What HB 310 does:**

- Commissions a study by the University of Maryland-Baltimore about the health effects of air traffic noise on communities near BWI, including the costs of these effects compared with the cost savings generated by NextGen
- Budget requested for study: \$130,000 in FY 2022

**How HB 310 could help:**

- A prior similar study conducted about health effects of an altered flight path from New York’s LaGuardia Airport provided the evidenced-based data needed to protect the short and long-term health of the communities, minimize stress economic impacts of preventable health related outcomes, and persuade the FAA to make changes that the advocates had requested.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Terri L. Hill'.

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