



HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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Delegate Maggie McIntosh, Chair
Appropriations Committee
House Office Building, Suite 121
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21041

Re: Testimony **IN SUPPORT** of HB 310 – University of Maryland, Baltimore – Study on the Health Effects of Air Traffic Noise

Dear Chair McIntosh,

In 2014, the Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen) was implemented by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). However, there have been many concerns from our residents in Howard, Anne Arundel, Baltimore and Montgomery Counties experiencing adverse impacts as a result of this plan.

I support HB 310, which would require the University of Maryland, Baltimore to study and report the potential health effects of air traffic noise on communities near Baltimore-Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport (BWI) since the implementation of NextGen six years ago.

I would like to commend the leadership of Delegate Hill, Senator Lam and their co-sponsors for supporting this legislation that could provide additional insight about the possible implications that the NextGen system has had on the quality of life and health of residents in our affected communities. In Howard County, residents in certain areas have experienced unacceptable levels of sleep disruption, an inability to enjoy the outdoors of their own homes and have significant concerns about potential declining property values because of the intolerable frequency, altitude and concentration of aircraft and noise from planes departing and arriving at BWI airport.

As a former Councilmember, I sponsored CB8-2017, which authorized taking legal action against the Federal Aviation Administration in the U.S. Court of Appeals to help alleviate the noise issue. Just last week, my office was notified that the oral argument for two of the County's administrative petition cases against the FAA will be heard before the U.S. Court of Appeals in the Fourth Circuit on March 17, 2020. Now, as County Executive, I will continue to advocate for our residents who suffer potential health risks and declined quality of life experienced as a result of Next Gen procedures.

I welcome your support and urge a favorable report on HB 310.

All the Best,

Calvin Ball

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