

Bill #SB184

Jesse M. Chancellor Jr., private citizen

Support

I am here today to speak in support of Senate Bill 184. My name is Jesse Chancellor and I currently reside in District 9, in Howard County. I have the honor of serving on the D.C. Metroplex BWI Community Roundtable, simply referred to as the BWI Roundtable. I was re-appointed to that position by Senator Hester, one of the co-sponsors of this bill. However, I come here today as a private citizen.

I won't discuss the origins of the FAA's Next Generation Air Transportation System, known as NextGen. Instead, I wish to describe what life is like for those who suddenly, and without any warning, found themselves living beneath NextGen jet plane highways. This will be based primarily on public comments made at BWI Roundtable meetings, but also on discussions I have had with people in both Howard and Anne Arundel Counties. I suggest that you read the public comments sections of the minutes of the meetings of the BWI Roundtable for a deeper understanding.

This is a summary, and in some cases, I am paraphrasing.

- The noise begins around 5 am and goes throughout the day, often until midnight;
- A jet passes overhead every few minutes throughout the day;
- It is like Chinese water torture, but with noise;
- You can hear it coming, when it is overhead (sometimes a mile or more away), and when it is leaving. It can take 2 minutes for it to end. Many times, before one ends, another one starts up, so there's no rest;
- It's the middle of the night and random jets scream overhead;
- I can't have a sound sleep with this assault;
- I can't concentrate at work because I can't sleep at night;
- The noise is so constant that I can't even think at home anymore;
- Our family can't communicate like we used to, it's hard with the ear plugs;
- We need Bluetooth headphones and ear plugs just to watch TV;
- I jam earplugs so deep into my ears that I have to use tweezers to get them out;
- I turned an interior room with no windows in my house into a "sanity" room. I go there and stay in the dark when the noise gets so bad;
- My children no longer want to play outside;
- Sometimes they hide in their bedrooms;
- They can't concentrate at school;
- My house shakes and the windows rattle;
- I have cracks in my walls and foundations from the plane vibration;
- We can't take walks in the neighborhood;
- We don't use our swimming pool anymore, there's an oily sheen on it;
- We can't have meals on the deck;
- I've lost the use of my home, and nobody cares.

What I have just said is not sensationalized. These experiences are not isolated. They describe the direct human consequences of the decision to allow the implementation of NextGen at BWI Marshall Airport. Therefore, it is reasonable to wonder about the actual health effects of all of this. The study that will be funded by SB 184 is needed to determine how widespread the public health damage of implementing NextGen at BWI Marshall truly is.