

Title: **Support Maryland General Assembly House Bill 0204 –
Written Testimony**

Speaker: Daniel E. Woomer
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Hearing: House Appropriations
 Room 121
 House Office Building
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Date: Wednesday, February 7, 2023

Time: 1:00 pm

Introduction:

I'm Daniel E. Woomer, a resident of Linthicum Heights, a neighbor of the BWI Marshall Airport, and a voting member of the DC Metroplex BWI Community Roundtable (Roundtable).

I encourage the House Appropriations members to vote **IN FAVOR** of the changes proposed in House Bill 0204.

What has the DC Metroplex BWI Community Roundtable Accomplished?

Part of the purpose of the Roundtable is to “Evaluate noise and other environmental effects” on communities and residents neighboring BWI Marshall and to “Identifying possible alternative routings and procedures” to mitigate the concentrations of noise and jet engine exhaust particulate pollution on the surrounding communities brought on with Federal Aviation Administration’s (FAA) implementation of NextGen flight management procedures.

The Roundtable has accomplished much. Following over 6-years of research and numerous discussions and meetings with FAA, Maryland Department of Transportation. Maryland Aviation Administration, BWI Marshall, Southwest Airlines, Maryland General Assembly members, and community representatives, our group of volunteers worked long hours to develop a series of flight path changes for FAA’s consideration. These proposed changes would help mitigate noise and pollution over higher populated areas of Anne Arundel and Howard Counties.

At the end of 2022 the FAA announced they have accepted the Roundtable proposals and began the process to roll out the proposed flight path adjustments.

Working with the contractor Vianair, the Roundtable started the development of a Howard and Anne Arundel Counties noise model. This work is a significant step in monitoring and quantifying the noise concentrations across BWI Marshall's neighboring communities.

These are small steps forward. Having four members of the Maryland Aviation Commission be identified and vetted by the Roundtable is a logical next step to assuring BWI Marshall's impact on our communities is given consideration as proposals for the ongoing development and expansion of services are being evaluated.

In Response to HB0204 Opposition Concerns:

The FAA began the overhaul of the national airspace with technology called "NextGen" at major airports across the country in the 2010's. It is important to note, the FAA's NextGen overhaul was a one-time national action. Such a national overhaul will likely not be repeated in the near future. The MAA recommended NextGen be implemented at BWI Marshall during that time. Starting implementation of NextGen in 2016, the disruptive concentration of flight paths and the lower aircraft altitudes, resulted in heightened intensity of jet engine noise on established communities both near and far from the BWI Marshall, especially over Anne Arundel and Howard Counties. The implementation of NextGen upended a century of land use planning. To date, all legal challenges at the county and state level to address the intensified noise and particulate pollution brought on by NextGen have failed.

The Maryland Aviation Commission Play's an Important Role with FAA's Airspace Design:

As noted above, the FAA's NextGen overhaul was a novel event. Under normal circumstances, and from now through the foreseeable future, the airport's planned and implemented infrastructure changes will drive the FAA's supporting airspace design, not vice versa. Again, the FAA responds to BWI Marshall's changes with their airspace design process.

Having Commissioners who understand this critical connection will allow for development and growth of BWI Marshall with mitigation of predictable impacts on neighboring communities that will

be realized when the FAA acts to accommodate the airport's new initiatives. Over the past six plus years of work, the Roundtable has acquired such expertise and understanding. Vetting Commissioners for the innovative approach HB0204 proposes can be accommodated by the Roundtable.

Impact on Small Businesses:

The Roundtable is comprised of a spectrum of political affiliations and professional diversity. It has embraced innovation since its formation in 2017 and is the only community group that has gained access for our airport authority into the FAA's premier airspace design process. Again, our Roundtable is the first airport authority that has this privilege. The Roundtable did not achieve the trust and acceptance of the FAA by being anti-airport or anti-aviation. In fact, most recently the Roundtable hosted a presentation by a former FAA administrator whose presentation showed how BWI Marshall could become a major international airport and greatly increase its capacity while further mitigating the noise and pollution on BWI Marshall's neighboring communities. The presentation was met with unanimous applause by the Roundtable members.

In Summary:

I encourage the Finance Committee members to vote IN FAVOR of the changes proposed in House Bill 0204.

Thank you.