

Support for Maryland General Assembly House Bill 204

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District 9, Senator Katie Fry Hester

At our January 24th meeting, the DC Metroplex BWI Community Roundtable passed a resolution to **support SB0162/HB0204 and to fully accept the responsibilities that it entails.**

The BWI Roundtable has been actively trying to understand and seek solutions to the explosion of aviation noise pollution in the region for almost six years. As a result, we have come to a much better understanding of how the citizens of Maryland directly benefit from having a safe, reliable, and economically vibrant airport. We also understand that the citizens of Maryland deserve healthy, peaceful lives in their chosen communities.

There is no reason we can't have both in the State of Maryland.

Growth in operations at BWI-Marshall brings many critically important social and economic impacts to communities and to the State of Maryland, including economic development, jobs, and tax revenue. However, ill-considered growth can result in significant negative impacts, especially for residents of Anne Arundel and Howard counties. These include stress, likely adverse health outcomes and a diminished quality of life.

Over the course of our almost 6 years of existence, the BWI Roundtable has come to believe those impacts are unsustainably unbalanced in favor of economic impacts in our region. An example was provided by the recent University of Maryland-Baltimore study that shows Marylanders will incur over \$800 million (in 2022 dollars) in additional health costs over 30-years from current BWI-Marshall operations. That study was funded by the General Assembly and published this past summer.

Another example is provided by an initiative the BWI Roundtable supported with funding from Howard and Anne Arundel counties. We are now publishing monthly noise and operations reports for the region that cover a much broader geography than the MAA's reports. We have discovered that unhealthy noise generated by the airport stretches westward to encompass the approximate boundaries of **Columbia/Clarksville**, to include **Fort Smallwood/Lake Shore/Annapolis** to the east and south to **Crownsville/Millersville/Fort Meade**. The World Health Organization has identified adverse health effects at this noise level. A map depicting this noise data from our November 2022 report has been uploaded with this testimony.

We are not seeking to curtail airport operations, but to seek balanced, data-driven and fully informed solutions for the complex set of stakeholders, including residents and communities. The BWI Roundtable firmly believes that communities must be formal stakeholders in airport decisions going forward to avoid the likelihood of increased conflict between economic growth at the airport and the interests of residents and communities. If decisions continue to be made without a full data-driven approach and informed by the best available science, resulting decisions are likely to result in irreversible and preventable harm.

For these reasons, the DC Metroplex BWI Roundtable respectfully requests the Committee grant House Bill 204 a favorable report.