

HB0310(SB0184) – Appropriations Committee hearing 2/11/20 @ 1300

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Community Roundtable

SUPPORT

I currently serve as a representative for Legislative District 30 to the BWI Roundtable and am former chairperson of the group. I have worked with the Roundtable for almost three years. The BWI Roundtable is a group of legislatively appointed representatives for all districts in the state that are negatively impacted by the FAA's implementation of NextGen at BWI and we are working in a number of ways to mitigate the harm caused by NextGen.

Tens of thousands of Maryland residents are experiencing physical harm, the loss of peaceful enjoyment of their homes and serious property devaluation under the low and concentrated flight paths that NextGen has created and will continue to create in the near future. Residents in my own district experience continuous low and loud flights going over their homes here on the Annapolis peninsula. They report a black soot-like film forming on the surfaces of their outdoor property and have observed oil slicks on the surfaces of outdoor pools and worry about the health effects of the exhaust they smell and the noise they simply cannot escape.

I live over 17 miles from BWI in Annapolis and an MAA sound survey completed on my property revealed 85+ decibel flights over my home.

Living under a newly established arrival flight path to BWI has changed our lives. We are plagued by flights all night and day and some mornings I can walk outside and smell the jet exhaust lingering over my neighborhood.

To live under an arrival or departure path at BWI is to endure a form of torture. The public testimony at our meetings is profoundly moving. We've heard from residents who have successfully battled cancer to live to raise their young children only to become battered by constant noise and pollution of a newly formed flight path over their home. The dreams they had of living to play catch with their son in their backyard are now impossible because the noise of the aircraft makes that simple experience unbearable. I particularly remember one resident's emotional testimony describing her

own hard work to purchase a beautiful home only to now find herself sleeping in her car in a parking lot because she cannot sleep in her own home. Her home, as she said, had become nothing more than a closet with a mortgage.

The current means of quantifying the harm experienced by those living under these flight paths, a Day-Night Average Sound Level (DNL) expressed in computer-modeled noise contours is not only inadequate and antiquated but stands in stubborn and obsolete contrast to the modernized noise standards used in the European Union and the rest of the modernized world. The many accounts of residents describing their lived, human experience under these flight paths makes the reality of the negative effects far more painful than just outdated science. Hundreds of thousands of noise complaints have been filed with the MAA by affected residents due to the NextGen flight paths at BWI to date.

Many times we've heard the rallying cry from the industrial aviation complex and special interests that BWI is a source of great economic value to our state. If we are actually experiencing hundreds of millions of dollars in a decade of healthcare costs due to noise-induced cardiac events alone, a cost estimate shown in other similar noise research, then we absolutely need to determine if we are experiencing these losses here and work to mitigate them. Ultimately, such work will serve to protect our local airport.

We need the data this study can provide to begin to quantify the real, lived effects of BWI's flight paths on real, tax-paying Maryland residents and healthcare providers. We are already paying for these effects in our healthcare costs, loss of productivity, environmental harm and devaluation of homes and real estate. We need to know how much money we are losing as a state. Without this data, we are making decisions with our airport and development blindly. At best we're making uninformed decisions and, at worst, we're hurting thousands of Maryland residents and hemorrhaging money.

It ain't what you don't know that gets you into trouble. It's what you know for sure that just ain't so. ~ possibly Mark Twain