

SB658
FAVORABLE

The Honorable Dolores G. Kelley Chair
Finance Committee
3 East
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

As introduced, SB658 would establish a Maryland Aviation Impacts Commission (MAIC) to study the health and environmental impacts of commercial aviation on communities in Maryland.

The Howard County Citizens Association (HCCA) is a Howard County wide organization that has two of its board members on the DC Metroplex BWI Roundtable (RT). Our members have been negatively impacted since NextGen concentrated flight paths were begun in 2015 by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The vast majority of departures from BWI fly over Howard County in what citizens refer to as the Interstate Airplane Highway in the Sky. Noise and pollution issues have been concentrated affecting Howard County communities.

The MAIC will do research on health and environmental issues to inform legislators on what might be done to help mitigate negative impact on communities. This research is beyond the charter of the RT. It is needed to assess quality of life issues. It is also an environmental justice issue since these airplane flights affect our disadvantaged communities.

We ask that your committee report out this bill favorably.

Howard County Citizens Association
Authorized by Board
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