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Asian-American & Pacific-Islander Caucus

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Support: SB 658 - Transportation - Maryland Aviation Infrastructure Impacts Commission

Background:

- NextGen is a series of interlinked programs and policies implemented by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to improve the efficiency of the country's National Airspace System.¹
- The intent of NextGen is to enhance the safety, efficiency, and predictability of our nation's aviation systems, however, the implementation of these policies has had dramatic consequences for Maryland communities since it was phased in beginning in 2015.
- NextGen altered flight paths around BWI Airport which causes planes to enter and exit the airport at low altitudes and on concentrated flight paths that bombard residents with dangerously high noise levels in addition to generating environmental concerns that have yet to be appropriately studied.
- The Maryland Aviation Administration (MAA) established the DC Metroplex BWI Community Roundtable Working Group (BWI Roundtable) at the request of the FAA in 2016 to make recommendations to the FAA following the result of concerns raised by the communities.
- Despite years of dialogue between the FAA and the BWI Roundtable, there has been no substantive relief for the concerns that are plaguing neighborhoods in Baltimore, Howard, Anne Arundel, and Montgomery Counties.

Why SB 658 is Needed:

- The BWI Roundtable is limited in its authority to conduct the substantive research required to understand and create solutions comparable to the severity of the issues that are being inflicted on our communities.

¹ [FAA: This is NextGen](#)

- There is an increased need for research to understand the entire range of health and environmental impacts that may result from the growth of modern aviation infrastructure.
- By establishing the Maryland Aviation Infrastructure Impacts Commission, Maryland communities will have gained increased authority to develop policy solutions to alleviate noise and environmental consequences relating to the operations at the BWI Airport.

What SB 658 Does:

- SB 658 will appoint 13 members for five-year positions in the Maryland Aviation Infrastructure Impacts Commission that would be tasked with advising the General Assembly to address aviation-related issues.
- The Commission will be guided by community advocates and will consult with health and environment experts, as well as the Maryland Office of the Attorney General, the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), the Maryland Aviation Administration, citizen advisory groups, the air carrier industry, the airport concessionaire industry, and the airline support services industry.
- Members of the Commission will be tasked to study and consider the research on the health and environmental impacts of commercial aviation in certain communities surrounding State-owned airports.
- SB 658 will require the Commission to create reports and recommendations related to health and environmental impacts on communities surrounding new and existing commercial aviation infrastructure.
- MDOT and the FAA will be required to inform the Commission

What SB 658 Accomplishes:

- SB 658 will create a commission to effectively evaluate all issues related to the commercial aviation growth and highly concentrated flight paths over communities through a legislative mandate, governance, staffing, and funding to bring reports and recommendations to legislators.
- By creating the Maryland Aviation Infrastructure Impacts Commission, legislators can be better apprised of the appropriate policy solutions that serve the State's dual imperatives of economic growth and that of protecting the health of its citizens and the environment.
- The statutory requirements proposed in SB 658 will strengthen the communities' relationship with the airport to ensure that all can benefit from the economic benefits from the airport's operations without sacrificing the wellbeing of Maryland communities.
- The insights gained from this Commission will have national implications that can aid communities in other states that are experiencing similar challenges.