



Oakland Mills Community Association
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Testimony IN SUPPORT of Senate Bill 658

FROM: Oakland Mills Community Association
Jonathan Edelson, Board Chair

Oakland Mills Village is just a 15-minute drive from BWI, and more importantly, is in the flight path for the airport. Since implementation of NextGen, Oakland Mills has experienced increased disruptive noise from the flight paths to and from BWI. We have had a representative on the BWI Roundtable and have long held the position that the situation must be resolved.

We support Senate Bill 658 to establish a Maryland Aviation Infrastructure Impacts Commission. As a community directly affected by the air traffic at BWI, we strongly believe that any research efforts that may lead to future recommendations should include community advocates as key stakeholders and decision makers. We also support the bill's effort to ensure that the commission is representative of the demographics of impacted communities, as Oakland Mills has higher proportions of historically underrepresented races, ethnicities, and economic backgrounds than the Howard County average.

As the bill states, there needs to be an appropriate balance between the aviation infrastructure that supports economic development and the quality of life in the communities impacted by this infrastructure. Establishing this commission is a step in that direction and ensures a formal role for community advocates in the process.

We encourage passage of Senate Bill 658.