

SB0658/HB1103 March 9/10, 2022 Hearings FAVORABLE

Jesse Chancellor, District 9, Senator Katie Hester, representing the BWI Community Roundtable.

The Commission that will be formed, if this legislation passes, is necessary to provide:

- Good data, that will lead to
- Better decisions, that will provide
- Transparency for the public, to ensure that there is renewed
- Balance between equally compelling and necessary interests

Complete data are missing around commercial aviation decisions in our State because NextGen was implemented without a full analysis. Individuals and communities are paying the price for this failure.

Public policy decisions related to our airports are therefore necessarily inadequately framed, which cannot lead to the best decisions.

The process for implementing NextGen at BWI Marshall was opaque at best and has undermined public trust in how decisions about commercial aviation improvements are made. These improvements are necessary, but must be made in an open and thorough manner.

NextGen alerted Maryland communities to a sudden imbalance of interests between commercial aviation and citizens' rights. Those rights include the quiet enjoyment of their homes and the protection of their health.

Our airport used to be a "Win-Win" for communities and for aviation-related growth. After NextGen it seems more like a "Winner Take All". Economic growth, tax revenues, jobs, air safety and efficiency are in the public interest, but so too are public health and livable communities. The Maryland Aviation Infrastructure Impacts Commission can start to recreate the balance that used to exist in this State and that allowed for all interests to successfully coexist and thrive.