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Maryland General Assembly

Senate Finance Committee

RE: SB 0162 Maryland Aviation Commission – Duties, Composition and Member Orientation

Honorable Committee Chair and Vice Chair,

My name is Mark Peterson and I have been a resident of Maryland for 33 years. When I moved from Baltimore County to Howard County in 1995 it was to build and purchase my first, and only, new home. Where I live in Elkridge is approximately 8 miles from BWI Thurgood Marshall. The neighborhood was new at the time and after 17 years of apartments and townhouses my little 1/8th of an acre was my dream. While aircraft flyover was not uncommon, it was relatively sparse and dispersed. My back yard was enjoyable. That all ended after acceptance of the FAA Environmental Impact by Ricky Smith of the MAA and the FAA phased implementation of NextGen beginning in 2015. The NextGen departure corridor often handling 75% of the westbound air traffic is directly over my house. By FAA design, the planes do not deviate from the center of that corridor by more than an eighth of a mile horizontally in either direction. The GPS assisted take off allows the flights to be separated timewise by as little as 2 minutes. The airlines appear to currently dictate a slow vertical climb to save fuel.

The roar that typically wakes me starts at 5:48 am. In a 15-minute period around 6:30 am there are usually 7 flights. During the day outside you need to stop speaking and wait for the planes to clear because you cannot shout over them. If I'm lucky the last flight noise I have to endure for the day occurs before midnight. I do not want to sell and move. My mortgage is paid off and I intended to retire shortly.

In 5 years of the Roundtable discussions with the FAA, very little has been implemented or proposed in addressing the conditions created by NextGen. Meanwhile, Mr. Smith has spent \$55 million dollars on terminal bathrooms and \$6 million dollars on electric buses to assure that travelers to BWI have a first-class experience. Afterall, the transitory out-of-state population must be afforded the best of environments. It is regrettable that the MAA does not have the same concerns for the neighboring residents of Maryland providing these funds.

I am requesting your help to pass SB 0162 and provide all the people of Maryland represented by the Roundtable some hope of relief.

Thank you.

Mark Peterson

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