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FRESHMAN LIAISON TO LEADERSHIP

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE
ON THE CLIMATE CRISIS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-0602

May 21, 2019

Daniel K. Elwell, Acting Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Acting Administrator Elwell,

My office has been contacted recently by many constituents from Boulder County, Colorado including residents of Boulder, Erie, Superior, Louisville, and Nederland regarding the increased rate of air traffic. Particularly for residents in several South Boulder neighborhoods, residents of Nederland, as well as visitors to the Indian Peaks Wilderness Area, there has also been a reported increase in air traffic noise reverberating off of and in the foothills. Constituents in these areas began reporting increased noise pollution after the NextGen navigation program was implemented.

Since that time, it appears that there have been computer modeling simulations of noise at the ground level along the front range. However, in speaking to the contractor who did the noise modeling, our office learned they did not do actual sampling of noise data in South Boulder at points where residents appear to be most affected by the sound waves. Noise sampling has also not been done in Nederland nor the Indian Peaks Wilderness to our knowledge. In addition, the frequency at which air traffic passes overhead, often spaced just three minutes apart, has dramatically increased noise pollution. Constituents have indicated that the frequent and loud flights over their homes have significantly affected their quality of life.

I am aware that the FAA has the tremendous responsibility of balancing public safety and efficiency of the airspace. However, I request that you consider the effect of noise pollution on communities and in sensitive wilderness areas and perform additional actual sampling of noise data in South Boulder, Nederland, and the Indian Peaks Wilderness. In addition, I support moving the proposed ZIMMR flight path as far south as possible and away from densely inhabited communities near the foothills and sensitive wilderness areas.

I appreciate the efforts of the FAA to engage the community during this process and look forward to hearing from you regarding our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joe Neguse".

Joe Neguse
Representative

Cc: Philip Newman, Assistant Administrator
Office of Government and Industry Affairs
Federal Aviation Administration