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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

April 5, 2021

Stephen Dickson, Administrator
U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Aviation Administration
Office of the Administrator
800 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Administrator Dickson:

I write to urge the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to immediately move forward with the environmental mitigation pilot grant program established under Section 190 of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 and begin soliciting proposals as soon as possible.

The FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 was signed into law over two years ago yet the FAA has still not published any formal guidance for the program. The bill contained numerous provisions requiring research examining the impact of aviation noise and emissions, including a new environmental mitigation pilot program (Sec. 190 of PL 115-254). According to the law, the program will fund projects that will “measurably reduce or mitigate aviation impacts on noise, air quality, or water quality.”

There are increasing concerns about the impact of aviation noise and emissions on communities surrounding airports, including Sea-Tac Airport in my district. I have heard from numerous local elected officials, university researchers, and community stakeholders who have expressed an interest in applying for grant funds under this program. However, without better information about the timeline and criteria for receiving funds under this program, they are having difficulty planning ahead and leveraging non-federal funds for data collection, monitoring, and mitigation activities.

As part of the Section 190 pilot grant program, it is critical that data collection and monitoring of aviation noise and emissions impacts be considered as eligible uses of funds. As you know, the first step in mitigating the impacts of noise and emissions on the environment is collecting appropriate data and monitoring the impact over time so that we can better understand which areas are most impacted.

Moving expeditiously to conduct the pilot program presents an important opportunity for the Department of Transportation and the FAA to demonstrate its commitment to environmental

justice, a priority for the Biden-Harris Administration. I look forward to hearing the agency's plans for moving forward with the Section 190 program, including information as to what kinds of activities will be eligible for funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Adam Smith". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Adam Smith
Member of Congress (WA-09)