

Rep Smith's Actions to Mitigate Noise and Environmental Impacts in the 115th Congress

- **Aviation Impacted Communities Act (H.R. #####)** – Congressman Smith advanced this legislation to enable communities around the SeaTac airport and other U.S. airports to better engage with the FAA. It requires that the agency to come to the table to address noise and environmental concerns affecting areas near airports. The bill designates communities under flight paths as “aviation impacted” and allows them to create community boards that interface with the FAA to better communicate the concerns of residents. These boards can petition the FAA for noise and environmental impact studies as they work with the agency to create action plans that address those issues. The Aviation Impacted Communities Act also expands which communities are eligible for mitigation by allowing communities in the 55 DNL contour to receive funding for insulation.
- **Introduced the Protecting Airport Communities from Particle Emissions Act (H.R. 4087)** – Rep Smith also introduced a bill that directs the FAA to conduct a national study on the emission of ultrafine particles around the nation’s twenty largest airports. The study would examine the percentage of these particles that comes from aviation, their dispersion, and how they affect the health of residents in communities around airports.
- **Highline Schools Mitigation Funding Amendment** – Congressman Smith successfully advanced an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act of 2018 (H.R. 5515) that would ensure funding for noise mitigation remains available, as agreed upon in a 2002 Memorandum of Understanding (MOA) between the Port of Seattle, the FAA, and Highline School District. Two of the remaining schools in the MOA were recently deemed ineligible for federal funds to complete noise mitigation projects because of recent modifications to the noise contours around the airport. These changes left two schools outside of areas where the FAA could legally provide mitigation funding, despite the prior agreement. Congressman Smith’s amendment allows for the FAA to provide the promised funding to the remaining schools based on the earlier noise contours so that they can acquire insulated doors, windows, and other forms of sound mitigation.
- **Engaging the FAA Administrator on the 65 DNL noise metric and timely use of FY 2018 Omnibus Appropriations** – Congressman Smith wrote Acting FAA Administrator Elwell to encourage the agency to quickly implement provisions passed in the FY 2018 Omnibus bill related to increasing FAA engagement with communities. This legislation provides funding for dedicated community engagement members at FAA regional offices around the country to interface with communities on aviation noise and environmental issues.

In his letter, Congressman Smith also requested an update on the FAA’s survey to measure the effectiveness of the Day Night Average Sound Level (DNL). In this survey, which began in 2015 and was further authorized by the FY 2018 Omnibus, the FAA is studying alternative metrics to the DNL.

- **Joined the Washington Delegation to Call on the FAA to Quickly Implement Aviation Provisions of FY 2018 Omnibus Appropriations Act** – Congressman Smith cosigned a delegation letter circulated by Senator Murray, which urged FAA Acting Administrator Elwell to quickly implement noise provisions passed in the FY 2018 Omnibus Appropriations Act.
- **Quiet Communities Act** – Congressman Smith is a cosponsor of Representative Grace Meng’s bill to establish an Office of Noise Abatement at the EPA. This office would promote the development of effective state and local noise control programs, carry out a national noise control research program, and carry out a national noise environmental assessment program.
- **Air Traffic Noise and Pollution Expert Consensus Act** – Congressman Smith cosponsored legislation introduced by Representative Stephen Lynch that would require the FAA to enter into an arrangement with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to study the various health impacts of noise and air pollution from aviation. The report would draw from experts convened by the National Academies and to set forth current scientific knowledge on airplane noise, environmental pollution, and other impacts from aviation.
- **Community Engagement** – Congressman Smith actively encouraged the Port of Seattle to increase its engagement with airport communities and their representatives. During a community engagement meeting organized by Congressman Smith at the Port of Seattle, the concept for the Port’s SEA Stakeholder Advisory Round Table, or StART, came about. StART brings together residents, elected officials from various localities, Port officials, and the FAA to discuss issues of aviation noise, environmental pollution, and how to manage with the growth of SeaTac airport.