



November 17, 2021

E-Distributed c/o Thomas Mayo

US Congressman Adam Smith
2264 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC. 20515-4709

Re: Support & Appreciation for Your Proposed Aviation Noise and Emissions Mitigation Act

Honorable Congressman Smith:

Thank you for your constant attention to our Beacon Hill neighborhood needs since 2015, and for partnering with Beacon Hill Council and El Centro De L Raza to develop the Aviation Noise and Emissions Mitigation Act.

The bill helps address our basic problem. As you know, Beacon Hill cannot access FAA noise mitigation funding even though airplanes roar over us as often as 90 seconds, mostly on their way to land at SeaTac Airport. Our health concerns were documented in 2017 by El Centro De La Raza and EPA's air and noise health impacts inventory. These health concerns were confirmed by the 2020 public health study. In short, combined aircraft noise and air pollution can negatively impact respiratory and cardiovascular health, newborn birth weight, sleep, learning, and mental health. https://apps.leg.wa.gov/ReportsToTheLegislature/Home/GetPDF?fileName=Community%20Health%20and%20Airport%20Operations%20Related%20Pollution%20Report_c7389ae6-f956-40ef-98a7-f85a4fab1c59.pdf

The Act is very empowering to communities like us. We can take action to help our loved ones who are suffering or prevent them from suffering from airport and aviation air and noise pollution health impacts. This bill allows us to apply for federal funding to conduct a study, document the emissions and health impacts, and/or implement interventions and mitigations that can help our community members.

Equally important is the fact that the Act is not blind to racial inequality. It gives consideration to communities of color that are more adversely impacted by the airport and aircraft air and noise emissions, a hard lesson we all learned from the COVID pandemic experience.

We believe that the bill will resonate with communities across the United States that feel the urgency to help their communities cope with the health impacts of airport and airpath flight noise and air emissions. This bill can be far reaching.

Our beloved Beacon Hill, which is a part of Seattle's vulnerable southeast neighborhoods, has 30,000+ residents with 70% people of color and 44% immigrants and refugees. When one looks at the total number of SeaTac airport and airpath-impacted community members, we are looking at over a quarter million residents with 50% people of color and 28% immigrants and refugees who live in six cities around SeaTac airport (Burien, Des Moines, Federal Way, Normandy park, SeaTac and Tukwila), and in neighborhoods under flight paths (Beacon Hill, the Duwamish Valley, historic Chinatown International District, parts of Rainier Valley and Columbia City).

El Centro De La Raza is assessing the needs of Latinos in King County. Fifty-six percent (56%) of all Latinos live near SeaTac airport and flight paths. This overrepresentation in airport-impacted neighborhoods is true across most communities with people of color. Seventy-three percent (73%) of all Blacks, 50% of all Asians, and 75% of all Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders in King County live near airports and flight parts as compared to only 34% of Caucasians. The Covid-19 pandemic experience demonstrated how the health of Latinos and other persons of color were more harshly impacted with less vaccination access, more infections, hospitalization, and death than Caucasians, which called for immediate public health interventions to stem the tide of the pandemic.

We are grateful for your continuing passion to help aviation impacted communities. We also want to thank you for your excellent (former) staff Amanda Wyma-Bradley who conceptualized the bill, and current staff Thomas Mayo who brought it home, with the continuing community engagement through Alex Stone.

Please let us know what else we can do to advocate for the passage of this Bill. Salamat po, again. Si, se puede - yes, we can.

Sincerely,



Maria Batayola, Chair
Beacon Hill Council



Estela Ortega, ED
El Centro De La Raza (ECDLR)

c: Beacon Hill Council
Beacon Hill EJ Task Force Co-Chair Deirdre Curle
Beacon Hill Noise Measurement Team Lynda Wong
Climate Action Families Megan Slade
Got Green Alice Park
ECDLR Director Miguel Maestas
ECDLR Environmental Justice Educator and Organizer Maritza Laureano Ortega