



Howard County Council

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Deb Jung, Chair
District 4

Liz Walsh, Vice Chair
District 1

Opel Jones
District 2

Christiana Rigby
District 3

David Yungmann
District 5

January 30, 2020

Dear Members of the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee:

The following Howard County Councilmembers are writing to express their support for Senate Bill 184/House Bill 310, which would require the University of Maryland, Baltimore, to study the health effects of air traffic noise on communities near Baltimore Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport (BWI) since the inception of the Next Generation (NextGen) Air Transportation System.

Introduced in 2017, NextGen created a superhighway in the sky that impacts approximately 45,000 residents in Howard and Anne Arundel Counties on a daily basis. Health issues associated with air traffic noise include cardiovascular disease, generalized anxiety, and other medical conditions. Knowing the specific health outcomes and associated costs is an important component in providing relief for our adversely affected constituents.

The Howard County Council has supported additional measures to reduce NextGen's impact on local residents by unanimously passing CR36-2019, a resolution expressing continued support for CB8-2017, which authorized the Howard County Office of Law's legal actions against the Federal Aviation Administration. Furthermore, a representative from the Howard County Council, Councilmember Deb Jung, continues to serve on the BWI Metroplex Roundtable, which has spent two years working with the Maryland Aviation Administration to identify technical solutions for noise reduction.

We would like to extend our special thanks to the Howard County Delegation members who sponsored these bills, including Senators Lam, Guzzone, and Hester, as well as Delegates Hill, Ebersole, Feldmark, and Terrasa.

The Howard County Council respectfully encourages this bill's favorable report.

Sincerely,



Deb Jung
Howard County Council, District 4



Liz Walsh
Howard County Council, District 1



Opel Jones
Howard County Council, District 2



Christiana Mercer Rigby
Howard County Council, District 3



David Yungmann
Howard County Council, District 5