



Howard County Citizens Association

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The Voice Of The People of Howard County

CR36-2019
HCCA Testimony
By Paul Verchinski
March 18, 2019

First, I would like to commend Councilwomen Deb Jung and Christiana Mercer Rigby for introducing this Resolution and for Councilwoman Liz Walsh for co-sponsoring this Resolution.

The Howard County Citizens Association (HCCA) supported CB8-2017 which has led to legal action against the FAA on the part of Howard County during the past two years. Since you are a new Council, HCCA requested that you reaffirm CB8-2017.

I have represented District 13 as Senator Guy Guzzone's appointee to the DC Metroplex BWI Roundtable (Roundtable). Councilwoman Deb Jung now represents the Council on the Roundtable. I have served on the Roundtable for the past two years. The Roundtable has not wavered from its original resolution, passed unanimously in March 2017, requesting the FAA to revert to pre NextGen arrival and departure dispersion of flights over Howard County, Anne Arundel, and Baltimore Counties.

Unfortunately, the FAA has a monopoly legislated by Congress on control of the National Air Space. Any changes can only be influenced thru Federal legislation.

While the Roundtable hoped that the Maryland Aviation Administration would represent Maryland citizens, this has not occurred. In fact, BWI continues to expand by adding new gates and an East Coast Maintenance hub for Southwest Airlines. While the State of Maryland benefits economically from BWI, tens of thousands of Maryland citizens in Howard County and adjoining counties have their quality of life shattered due to concentrated airplane noise thru FAA's GPS NextGen flight system. So we now have airplane noise on a 24/7 basis.

I have lived in the same house in Columbia since 1973 and never had a problem with airplane noise until NextGen was implemented at BWI. Now the airplane noise occurs from 5 AM until after midnight and sometimes I am woken up by cargo planes flying between midnight and 5 AM. The Roundtable submitted a Petition for Action to the Maryland Aviation Administration requesting that until the NextGen issues are resolved that BWI not expand nor add additional flights. To date, there has been no response.

There are only a few realistic avenues for Howard County. Continue litigation, push for Federal legislation to change the archaic noise measure adopted in 1971, and push for

Maryland legislation to limit BWI expansion, flight operations. and limit the hours that BWI allows for flight operations.

We thank you for and ask for a favorable vote on this Resolution.

Thank You,

Paul Verchinski
HCCA, Board of Director