



*Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515*

2015 DEC 15 P 3:07
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CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

*Anna G. Eshoo
Eighteenth District
California*

December 9, 2015

The Honorable Karen Holman, Mayor
City of Palo Alto
250 Hamilton Avenue
Palo Alto, California 94301

Dear Karen,

I'm writing about two important follow-up items relative to FAA noise issues: (1) the FAA's Initiative which has been released and still open for public comment and (2) recent legislation I've introduced to reform the FAA.

It's important that the City review the attached FAA document entitled, "Initiative to Address Noise Concerns of Santa Cruz/Santa Clara/San Mateo/San Francisco." It's my understanding that the City of Palo Alto is hiring technical consultants and is in the process of working with other cities in Santa Clara County and Southern San Mateo County to find common ground on this issue. The FAA developed the document as a result of meetings with elected officials and community leaders over the last several months. Before the FAA returns to our Congressional District early next year to answer questions related to the initiative, the City's feedback on the FAA's Initiative, including additional suggestions for ways in which the FAA can address this regional issue is critical. FAA leadership informed my office that they are seeking comments by January 2016, and my staff advised the FAA leadership that the City is putting a technical team in place and will do so as soon as it is possible to. I strongly encourage the City to provide comment to the FAA as soon as possible.

On another related front, I've introduced legislative reforms to require the FAA to plan *with* communities *before* implementing changes, and also to restore the EPA's Office of Noise Abatement and Control which was defunded more than three decades ago. I'm enclosing copies of the legislation and would welcome the City's support of these legislative initiatives. The following summarizes the bills:

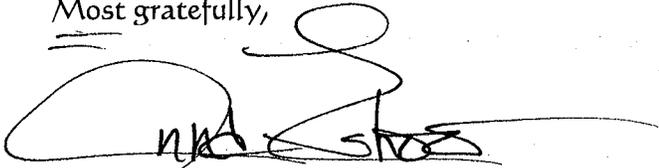
- The *Quiet Communities Act* would restore the EPA's Office of Noise Abatement and Control which was created by Congress in 1972. This office oversaw the nation's noise control activities until it was defunded by Congress at the request of the Reagan Administration in 1981. In addition to restoring funding for this office, the bill

effectiveness of the FAA's noise measurement methods, health impact thresholds, and abatement programs. This will bring transparency to the FAA's current noise measurement and abatement practices.

- The *FAA Community Accountability Act* would require the FAA to work with local communities and limit noise impacts when planning and implementing new flight paths. Importantly, the *FAA Community Accountability Act* would require the FAA to reconsider existing routes that expose residents to unacceptably high levels of aviation noise. The bill also creates a new Community Ombudsman in each FAA region to monitor the impact of NextGen implementation on affected communities, serve as a liaison between airport communities and the FAA, and make policy recommendations to Congress and the FAA.

Thank you for your leadership and that of the entire City Council on this issue which is affecting our mutual constituents. As always, I stand ready to assist you and the Council in every way possible.

Most gratefully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anna Eshoo', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress

cc: Members, Palo Alto City Council
Mr. James Keene, City Manager

Enclosures