

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 18, 2014

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

The Honorable Michael Huerta
Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Secretary Foxx and Administrator Huerta:

We write to acknowledge the initial steps the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has undertaken to address helicopter noise in the Los Angeles region. However, we remain concerned that the objectives of the six action items outlined in Section 119D of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 (Public Law No: 113-76) have not been satisfied. We therefore ask that the FAA continue its collaborative efforts in pursuit of voluntary agreement on helicopter routes.

We are encouraged by FAA's collaboration with community representatives and helicopter operators on identifying operating best practices that reduce noise pollution. We also commend FAA for leading efforts to conduct outreach and training for helicopter pilots. However, we believe there is still much work to be done before all stakeholders can agree on any voluntary guidelines governing helicopter traffic.

The FAA has made preparations to implement a noise complaint system that will be operational in 2015. We believe the FAA should ensure that this system will be designed in such a way as to enable feedback from local residents to inform decisions about helicopter routes and operations in the region.

We also urge the FAA to expand its evaluation of helicopter traffic throughout the entire Los Angeles County, instead of just the localized areas studied so far. Additionally, the FAA should begin to analyze options for higher altitude helicopter routes, as required by the law. The results of these efforts will provide a basis for long-term voluntary guidelines that satisfy all stakeholders.

We appreciate FAA's efforts to mitigate helicopter noise on the ground through voluntary measures negotiated with the FAA, the local community, and


the pilot associations. We believe that FAA should proceed with a regulatory approach if the stakeholders fail to agree on a voluntary process.

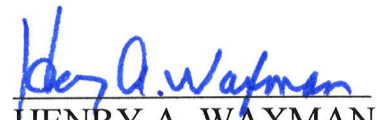
The residents of the Los Angeles region have been plagued by frequent and disruptive helicopter noise for far too long and deserve relief. We ask FAA to continue their efforts to address the issue until the objectives under all six of the action items have been achieved. We appreciate your dedication and prompt attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,


DIANNE FEINSTEIN
United States Senator



BARBARA BOXER
United States Senator


ADAM B. SCHIFF
Member of Congress


HENRY A. WAXMAN
Member of Congress


KAREN BASS
Member of Congress


ALAN LOWENTHAL
Member of Congress


TONY CÁRDENAS
Member of Congress


BRAD SHERMAN
Member of Congress