



## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0504

<http://feinstein.senate.gov>

February 6, 2012

Mr. Dennis E. Roberts  
Director of Airspace Services  
Air Traffic Organization  
Federal Aviation Administration  
800 Independence Ave. SW  
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Mr. Roberts,

I write to urge the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to initiate the process for establishing a Special Federal Aviation Regulation above Los Angeles in order to reduce helicopter noise and improve flying safety. This is an important issue impacting the quality of life for the people in America's second largest city, and I ask that you give it proper analysis and consideration.

It is my understanding that the FAA has recently agreed to begin collecting data on helicopter use above Los Angeles for the first time, and I thank you for that decision. However, FAA also recently turned down a petition from my constituents for a Special Federal Aviation Regulation setting a 2,000-foot minimum altitude for all non-emergency traffic above a portion of Los Angeles County. As the FAA has exclusive responsibility for improving and maintaining safety standards in the skies above our cities, I would appreciate it if the FAA would reconsider this decision and begin addressing this ongoing problem above Los Angeles County expeditiously.

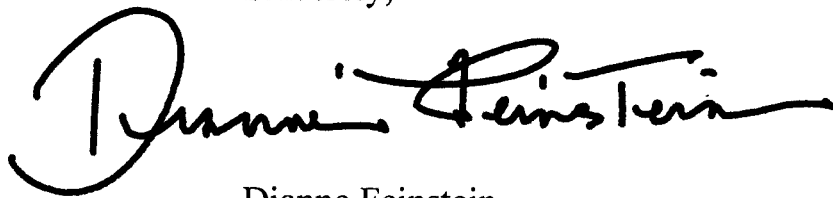
Helicopter flight noise has been growing above Los Angeles for decades, but Angelenos have no power to reduce the steady swarm of media, tour, paparazzi, film, and private commuter helicopters without FAA's cooperation. As I am sure you are aware, the National Transportation Safety Board has concluded that flying at low altitudes was a cause of two fatal accidents that occurred in the hills overlooking Los Angeles, demonstrating that low flying helicopters are a hazard to persons and property on the ground.

Last month, with the support of Senator Barbara Boxer, I introduced the “Los Angeles Residential Helicopter Noise Relief Act” (S. 2019). This legislation would require the FAA to develop regulations to reduce helicopter noise pollution in the County of Los Angeles. I introduced this legislation because existing flight rules allow low-flying helicopter operations to destroy the quality of life of residents, violate their privacy, and disrupt outdoor events, such as the ones attended at the Hollywood Bowl.

Considering the importance of this issue to my constituents, I am alarmed that the FAA has dismissed the petition for a Special Federal Aviation Regulation. I request that you grant the Petition for Reconsideration of Docket No. FAA-2010-0188, and begin the rule making process. Furthermore, due to the importance of this matter to the entire Los Angeles community, I request that FAA consider establishing height restrictions to address noise in all areas of Los Angeles County when it considers establishing a Special Federal Aviation Regulation.

Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dianne Feinstein". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "D".

Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator

DF:mbn:es