

J. S. Sean McCarthy
President
Mount Vernon Civic Assoc.
PO Box 61
Mount Vernon, VA 22121
4-8-2019

Congressman Beyer
1901 N. Moore St
Suite108
Arlington, VA 22209

Dear Congressman Beyer:

I am reaching out to you on behalf of the residents served by the Mount Vernon Civic Association. As you are aware, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has changed the flight patterns around the Country as they implement the new "Next Generation" air traffic system. These changes have had a negative impact on those of us under the new flight patterns. We are asking for your help to push the FAA for review and modification of the routes in your District along the Potomac River. Specifically, we are concerned about the preliminary noise modeling study and the effects on the Mount Vernon Estate, Mount Vernon neighborhoods and surrounding stakeholders from the proposed new route .

Our residents understand and appreciate the need for the FAA to modernize our flight systems. We regularly use the DCA Reagan National airport and are generally supportive of maximizing throughput and keeping our air traffic safe. However, we are concerned that the citizens under these new flight patterns have not had an equal seat at the table when working through these changes.

It seems completely unreasonable to take a dispersed system of take offs and landings and change it to a single concentrated route. We now have the effect of creating rail lines in the sky. If you are unlucky enough to be under these new routes, it's like having a train track over your house. Not only is it extremely noisy, but also dirty and potentially unsafe from debris and long-term health issues.

The DCA Regan National Community Working Group has been hard at work making recommendations to improve the overall air space around the DCA Reagan National Airport. Many of these recommendations like minimum altitudes, quieter planes and fines for noise violations should be supported. However, we cannot support the concept of a single route and shifting the problem further down river.

Congressman Beyer

4-8-2019

Page 2

A plan has been presented to the FAA to shift south bound take offs further down river over and around the Mount Vernon air space. In this discussion, a preliminary noise modeling study was performed. Please note a presentation regarding this study ([FAA Presentation South Flow SIDs Noise Screening Results](https://www.flyreagan.com/sites/default/files/faa_presentation_south_flow_sids_noise_screening_results_final.pdf)) could be found online on 12/06/2018 https://www.flyreagan.com/sites/default/files/faa_presentation_south_flow_sids_noise_screening_results_final.pdf. This study shows the increased noise in and around the Mount Vernon Estate and surrounding area.

It is clear from this preliminary study that we are going to see a significant amount of increased noise from the new air traffic route. Moving southbound take offs over one of Northern Virginia's premier tourist attractions is something we should think twice about. The historic buildings could be affected by the increased noise and exhaust debris.

We are respectfully asking for your help to disperse the air traffic routes into a minimum of three routes. We understand that the FAA has implemented similar solutions elsewhere around the Country. This would provide relief in the effected area and reduce the long-term impact on the iconic historic place and buildings of the Mt Vernon Neighborhood.

Thank you for your consideration and support on this important issue.

Sincerely,

S. Sean McCarthy

President

Mount Vernon Civic Association

cc: Dan Storck – Fairfax County Supervisor Mount Vernon District
Doug Bradburn - President Mount Vernon Estate
Lauren Bazel – Commodore Mount Vernon Yacht Club
John Finucan – Commodore Mansion House Yacht Club
John Vorhees – President Mansion House Swim Club
Scott Stroh – Director Gunston Hall
Allison Ross-Thompkins – The Fairfax