**TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON**

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***Statement for U.S. Representative Lee Zeldin’s Press Conference***

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Operations for all aircraft at the East Hampton Airport in 2014 totaled 25,000, of which 8,400 were helicopters, which increased by 47% in one year.

In 2014, the Town of East Hampton received nearly 25,000 aircraft noise complaints, two-thirds of which involved helicopters. The ratio of aircraft operations to complaints is 1:1.

Faced with the growing footprint of air traffic noise and complaints throughout the East End, the East Hampton Town Board has diligently studied and professionally analyzed this issue over the past 14 months, involving members of the public, as well as industry interests. All this information is publically available at HTOplanning.com.

The Town has proposed four laws:

1. A mandatory curfew on all aircraft between 11p.m. and 7 a.m.
2. An additional mandatory curfew between 8 p.m. and 9 a.m. for the noisiest jets and helicopters
3. A prohibition of helicopter operations from noon on Thursdays to noon on Mondays, between May 1 and September 30
4. A limit of one take-off and one landing per calendar week, from May 1 to September 30, for the noisiest jets and helicopters

As proposed, the four laws taken together are designed to maximize the reduction of noise complaints while applying to the smallest number of aircraft operations. According to the February 10, 2015 analysis by Harris, Miller, Miller & Hanson Inc., the proposed rules will, on an annual basis:

* Restrict 24% of overall aircraft operations, while reducing complaints by 67% and
* Restrict 75% of helicopter operations, while reducing complaints by 87%

The Town of East Hampton’s natural beauty, open space, and rural character are its greatest assets, the reason so many choose to live, work or vacation there or to retire or enjoy a second home. These assets are the very basis of our strong economy. The degradation of people’s peaceful enjoyment of their homes—on the scale occurring now—threatens this quality of life and the core of the economy.