



PO Box 1494 Wainscott NY 11975
Phone: (646) 459-4221 Fax: (646) 459-4222

March 10, 2015

Dear Chairman Malman,

We greatly appreciate your level of commitment to ensuring good government and allowing us to share our opinion with your members on the benefits of the East Hampton Airport.

First, it is important to note that by no means do we believe that our collective work in reducing aviation noise is complete. These customers who fly in and out of the airport so that they can enjoy their homes believe in being good neighbors. It is one of the strongest messages I get from them and they want to make sure we do everything that is safely possible to minimize our noise on the East End.

We want to continue to work with the community and the Town to reduce the impact of aviation noise on our community and protect the airport as the vital transportation, economic, and emergency response asset it is.

In three separate economic studies, it has been made clear that the airport is directly and indirectly responsible for tens of millions of dollars of revenue, and hundreds of jobs in the Towns of East Hampton and Southampton. The flying public own homes, pay taxes to build schools, pay for roads and clean beaches, and spend money in local shops, restaurants and hotels. Moreover, in light of the current Part 16 litigation seeking an FAA Order requiring the Town to make extensive capital improvements to the Airport, speed up planned repairs and maintenance, provide for three runways, and challenging the Town's increases in fees, the Committee must plan for the possibility, really likelihood, that the Town's obligations will be significantly higher than forecast.

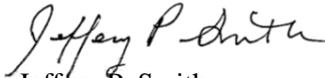
The story around the airport is not a new one. For years Town Boards have had to find equilibrium between the noise at the airport and the asset that it is to the Town. Over the last eighty years and twenty different Town Supervisors this has happened. Just two years ago, the Town Board voted on a much-needed capital improvement plan for the airport and was seeking the federal government to pay 90% of the tab through a program that taxpayers already pay for. In the spirit of democracy, three separate committees were formed by the Town Board to assess the airport's future. One year later, the Town proposed regulations that mirrored those proposed by a "Noise Committee" made up people publicly opposed to the airport. Out of the three committees – the Noise Committee, Airport Committee and the Budget and Finance Advisory Committee (BFAC) – only one has supported these draconian and far-reaching restrictions.

There is now proof that one person who sits on both the Noise Committee and the BFAC purposely misinformed the Wainscott Citizens Advisory Committee (WCAC) regarding the contention and disagreement within the BFAC as to the economic impact of the proposed restrictions. The misinformation was given to WCAC in order to urge WCAC (without accurate facts) to send a letter supporting the restrictions. Worse, it was only due to one WCAC member's steadfast diligence that this troubling episode was included in the minutes and made part of the public record.

The airport is an asset to the community and we remain confident that progress can be made on airport noise issues through honest and good government. But the self-dealing and misleading efforts by airport opponents must end. We strongly believe that due diligence and responsible analysis should dictate the direction of the Town. The Town is chartering a dangerous and wrongful course if it proceeds with draconian airport restrictions with: isolated support from only one of three Town subcommittees that has studied the issue; no proof that the airport can financially sustain itself if the restrictions are passed; no independent economic impact study; and indication that the restrictions would eliminate 31% of the operations but 74% of the revenue. Moreover, if the Town makes the decision to proceed with the restrictions, any help currently available from the federal government to fund the airport will no longer be available to this Town Board or any future Town Board – posing a serious, lasting consequence that will make the airport a full financial burden to already overtaxed local residents.

I urge you and your members to fulfill your mission of ensuring good government by asking the Town to do the right thing for all of the homeowners, taxpayers, citizens and visitors of the East End.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeffery P. Smith".

Jeffery P. Smith
Chairman

Friends of the East Hampton Airport, Inc.