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UNITED STATES CONGRESS

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Steve Dickson
Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
800 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20591

RE: Comment on the Neighborhood Environment Survey

Dear Administrator Dickson:

Earlier, I joined with my colleagues on the Congressional Quiet Skies Caucus in formally expressing deep concern regarding the results of the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA's) nationwide survey about aircraft noise. I wish to further raise the specific concerns of San Fernando Valley residents, who for years have suffered with unacceptable amounts of noise, pollution, and other aviation impacts.

The FAA Neighborhood Environmental Survey (NES) demonstrates the failure of the Schultz Curve and Day-Night Sound Level (DNL) to adequately protect communities from the effects of the aviation industry to homes, schools, public spaces, and entire communities. The FAA took half a decade to release the study. Those who have been forced to live with these unacceptable impacts need relief now. It is unacceptable to further delay taking reasonable and necessary actions to alleviate the documented effects in the San Fernando Valley and in other communities across the country

Residents have repeatedly expressed a need for relief, participating in countless public forums, including with the FAA directly. Refusing to make any determinations before "additional research" after half a decade of waiting for the NES is disingenuous and demonstrates an unwillingness on behalf of the FAA to take any substantive action.

Many of my constituents have noted that the "N-Above" metric, which is already available, would better reflect noise impacts on communities, and they have asked for its immediate use in documenting aviation impacts and guiding corrective action. The N-Above metric measures the number of noise events over a given DNL noise level, because the frequency of noise events is as important as the intensity of the sound. This is particularly important to communities who, due



to actions taken by the FAA, now find themselves under the equivalent of a super-highway in the sky.

Numerous residents and community groups have urged the FAA to take specific actions relevant to the NES, including the request to make NES data sets available. I again join in supporting their efforts to seek immediate relief to communities in my district. Further, unnecessary delay only acerbates an already untenable and unacceptable situation for countless individuals.

Sincerely,



BRAD SHERMAN
Member of Congress