



CALIFORNIA, 30TH DISTRICT

March 9, 2021

CONGRESSMAN BRAD SHERMAN

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to ask that the new Administration takes significant steps to address the issue of aviation noise and other impacts from aviation. The Members of the Quiet Skies Caucus have worked to seek real changes and relief for the communities that suffer from severe disruption from aircraft.

Numerous communities and countless residents in my district in the San Fernando Valley have been severely impacted by increases in aviation noise and other aviation impacts. Despite the creation of a San Fernando Valley Noise Taskforce, countless public comments, and numerous public hearings clearly documenting the nature and extent of the problem, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has failed to take any meaningful, corrective action. Elected officials at every level of government from City Council Members to California's Senators have joined me in repeatedly calling for action. At my request, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) is also examining the FAA's failure to respond to the concerns of communities, like those that I represent. The GAO is expected to release its findings later this year.

As the Administration continues its work, I urge you to seek substantial reform at the FAA. The FAA, under the Trump Administration, demonstrated an unwillingness to respond to the serious problems and disruption that resulted by changes they have made since the implementation of the Next Gen system. There are several key positions within the FAA that will need to be filled under your new leadership, including the Deputy FAA Administrator, the Chief Operating Officer of the Air Traffic Organization, the Associate Administrator for Airports, and the Assistant Administrator for Policy, International Affairs, and Environment. It is critical that the Department of Transportation and the agencies under it take the health and safety concerns of the public seriously and take immediate action to address public concerns.

I look forward to working with you to find an immediate solution that will reduce unacceptable aircraft noise and other aviation impacts for residents of the San Fernando Valley and for other communities. Attached is also a copy of a letter from numerous organizations around the country regarding the impact of FAA Next Gen on American neighborhoods, signed by several San Fernando Valley organizations, including Burbank For Quiet Skies, Sherman Oaks and Encino for Quiet Skies, Studio City For Quiet Skies, and Uproar LA.

Sincerely,

BRAD SHERMAN
Member of Congress