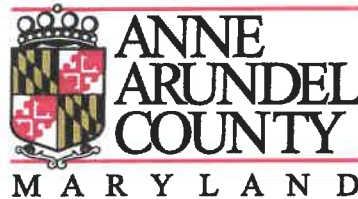


STEVEN R. SCHUH
County Executive



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September 19, 2017

The Honorable Brian E. Frosh
Maryland Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General
200 St. Paul Place
Baltimore, MD 21202

Re: Federal Aviation Administration
Next Generation Air Transportation System

Dear Attorney General Frosh:

Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport ("BWI") is located in Anne Arundel County and serves over 25 million passengers annually. The Federal Aviation Administration ("FAA") modernization of the national air transportation system, known as the Next Generation Air Transportation System ("NextGen"), has resulted in altered flightpaths and lower altitude flights around BWI. Anne Arundel County residents are being adversely affected by increased noise generated by aircraft taking off and landing at BWI under the NextGen system.

Governor Larry Hogan wrote recently to you directing you to file suit against FAA Administrator Michael P. Huerta and the FAA on behalf of all Marylanders suffering from the adverse effects of the implementation of NextGen. I am writing to support Governor Hogan's direction to file suit against the FAA.

Under NextGen, increased numbers of aircraft take the exact same route to and from an airport. These routes have created increased air traffic on new flightpaths and a corresponding increase in noise pollution in Anne Arundel County. Additionally, citizens residing in homes along the new flightpaths are experiencing air traffic that may not have existed prior to the implementation of NextGen.

It is appropriate for you to file suit on behalf of the State of Maryland, as opposed to each individual county filing suit to seek relief. NextGen affects several counties in Maryland, and any resolution should be statewide in scope. Although BWI is located in Anne Arundel County, Howard County and Baltimore County are within close proximity to BWI and have also been adversely affected. Montgomery County is experiencing similar issues by altered flightpaths at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport.

"Anne Arundel County: The best place to live, work and start a business in Maryland."

In seeking relief from the FAA, I urge you to seek relief that will not favor some citizens over others. Merely altering flight paths over areas whose citizens complain less would not be an appropriate solution. Any action filed should urge the FAA to alter NextGen flightpaths to benefit all citizens. All citizens would benefit from flightpaths being routed away from residential areas and over waterways and highways. All citizens would benefit from aircrafts staying at higher altitudes as they approach BWI.

The noise complaints have been brought to the FAA's attention on numerous occasions, but there has been no resolution to date. The DC Metroplex BWI Community Roundtable has been in existence for six months, attempting to convince the FAA to implement favorable changes. On September 5, 2017, the Anne Arundel County Council passed a resolution that urges the FAA to return the flight patterns at BWI to pre-NextGen flightpaths and to move forward with the requests and recommendations of the DC Metroplex BWI Community Roundtable. At this point it appears that the FAA will respond only to litigation.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Steven R. Schuh
County Executive

cc: The Honorable Lawrence J. Hogan, Governor, State of Maryland
The Honorable Allan H. Kittleman, Howard County Executive
The Honorable Isiah Leggett, Montgomery County Executive
The Honorable Kevin B. Kamenetz, Baltimore County Executive
The Honorable John J. Grasso, Chairman, Anne Arundel County Council
Lance T. Brasher, Esquire, Chairman, DC Metroplex BWI Community Roundtable