

[The following article was originally published in Airport Noise Report newsletter on pages 13, 15 in Volume 34, Number 4, February 4, 2022.]

Airport Noise Report



A weekly update on litigation, regulations, and technological developments

Volume 34, Number 4

February 4, 2022

Quiet Skies Caucus

COMMUNITY GROUPS ASK QSC TO HELP THEM GET ON NEXT-GEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Some 62 grass-roots community groups have appealed to the congressional Quiet Skies Caucus to help them obtain membership on the FAA's NextGen Advisory Committee (NAC), whose charter will be renewed in June. In a Dec. 20, 2021, letter, the leaders of the community groups wrote the following to the QS Caucus:

The implementation of the FAA's "NextGen" program has seriously harmed millions of residents – your constituents – in the 62 communities we collectively represent. Yet our communities have effectively no voice in recommendations about FAA's NextGen implementation.

We urge the Quiet Skies Caucus to help correct this by sending a letter to DOT Secretary Buttigieg requesting that he direct the FAA to recommend multiple community representatives to the NextGen Advisory Committee (NAC) for the June 2022 NAC charter renewal.

As required in the current charter, the members must represent "a particular interest of ..., experience, or affiliation with a specific aviation-related organization," e.g., knowledgeable community representatives directly impacted by NextGen.

(Continued on p. 15)

QSC, from p. 13 _____

The NAC's objective is to provide "independent advice and recommendations" to the FAA regarding considerations "that affect the future of the Air Traffic Management System and the integration of new technologies."

As a Federal Advisory Committee, the NAC should have balanced representation of all stakeholders "that affect the future of the Air Traffic Management System and the integration of new technologies." Instead, the NAC is dominated by aviation industry representatives. Twenty-nine of the NAC's thirty members are members of the aviation industry or government including airline operators, aircraft manufacturers, airports, and aviation labor.

The NAC has no community representatives who are directly affected by NextGen implementation at any of FAA's designated NextGen single-site or metroplex 30-core airports. If the NAC membership needs to be increased beyond its current thirty members to include multiple community members, this should be considered.

A staffer for one of the leaders of the Quiet Skies Caucus told a member of the community groups that the Caucus will respond to the groups' letter.