

# Airport Noise Report



A weekly update on litigation, regulations, and technological developments

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## NextGen Advisory Committee

### 23 QS CAUCUS MEMBERS ASK DOT SECRETARY TO ADD FIVE COMMUNITY REPS TO THE NAC

Some 23 members of the congressional Quiet Skies Caucus urged U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg in an April 20 letter to direct FAA to add five community representatives to the NextGen Advisory Committee (NAC) as part of the upcoming June renewal of the NAC charter.

They asked the DOT Secretary to respond to their request by May 4.

Frustrated that the NAC did not to respond to their requests to be added to the advisory committee, representatives of communities experiencing the concentrated noise impact that comes with living under NextGen flight paths turned to the QS Caucus for assistance in gaining membership to the advisory committee.

The NAC charter requires the FAA to submit recommendations for membership to the Secretary of Transportation who will appoint members to the NAC. All NAC members serve at the pleasure of the Secretary of Transportation.

The National Organization to Insure a Sound-controlled Environment (N.O.I.S.E.), which mainly represents elected officials of political jurisdictions

(Continued on p. 54)

## In This Issue...

### NextGen Adv. Committee ...

Some 23 members of the congressional Quiet Skies Caucus ask DOT Secretary Pete Buttigieg to direct the FAA to add five representatives of communities impacted by aircraft noise from concentrated NextGen flight paths to the NextGen Advisory Committee as part of the upcoming renewal of the NAC charter in June - p. 53

## NAC, from p. 53

around major airports, is the only member of the NAC that currently represents noise-impacted communities. ANR asked N.O.I.S.E. Executive Director Emily Tranter if she would welcome additional representatives of noise-impacted communities to the NAC but received no response by deadline.

Brad Pierce – who is listed on the N.O.I.S.E. website as president of the organization and a member of the Aurora, CO, City Council – currently represents N.O.I.S.E. on the NAC. While Pierce served on the Aurora City Council from 2003 to 2017, he did not run for reelection in 2017 and has not been a member of the City Council since then. However, he is identified as being a member of the Aurora City Council on the FAA's NAC website.

### Quiet Skies Caucus Letter

“The mission of the NAC is to provide independent advice and recommendations to the FAA relating to operations that affect the future of the Air Traffic Management System,” the QS Caucus members told Buttigieg. Their letter continues:

“The 30 members of the NAC represent multiple airline operators, aircraft manufacturers, industry associations and government agencies such as the Department of Defense and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Only one member represents environmental stakeholders. None of the members represent communities that live under NextGen corridors and that are directly impacted by the recommendations of the NAC.

“To better fulfill NAC's mission, we recommend adding five more seats to the committee, to be filled by representatives who can speak on behalf of affected communities.

“There is precedent for the FAA expanding membership on an advisory committee. For example, the Advanced Aviation Advisory Committee, formerly known as the Drone Advisory Committee, recently expanded its membership from 35 to 41 members as part of its charter amendment. This was done in part to include “a community advocate representative to provide insight and expertise on potential impacts of increased drone traffic on communities.”

“Hearing directly from affected communities is essential.

The NAC and the FAA rely on the use of the Day-Night average sound level (DNL) standard to assess the impact of their recommendations on communities. However, a recent Government Accountability Office (GAO) study found that because the DNL combines into a single metric “both the amount of noise from each aircraft operation, as well as the average annual flights per day at a given location, the same DNL may be associated with vastly different numbers of flights above that location.”

“The GAO concluded that the DNL standard does not fully convey the noise created by flights overhead. Having community representatives on the NAC would enable the committee to better assess the on-the-ground impact of their recommendations.”

The letter was signed by the following Quiet Skies Caucus members: Reps. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D.C. Delegate) and Stephen Lynch (D-MA), co-chairs of the caucus, as well as Reps. Thomas Suozzi (D-NY), Karen Bass (D-CA), Sean Casten (D-IL), Jason Crow (D-CO), Mike Quigley (D-IL), Donald Beyer (D-VA), Judy Chu (D-CA), Anna Eshoo (D-CA), Ruben Gallego (D-AZ), Henry Johnson (D-GA), Grace Meng (D-NY), Jerrold Nadler (D-NY), Jimmy Panetta (D-CA), Jan Schakowsky (D-IL), Adam Smith (D-WA), Raul Grijalva (D-AZ), Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), Seth Moulton (D-MA), Joe Neguse (D-CO), Jamie Raskin (D-MD), and Brad Sherman (D-CA).

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