

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 14, 2015

Administrator Michael Huerta
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Administrator Huerta:

We write to urge the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to address the significant helicopter noise afflicting residents of Whitestone and Malba Gardens and other communities in Northern Queens. Specifically, we are asking the FAA to monitor the flight paths of helicopters crossing over these neighborhoods. Furthermore, we are asking for tracking of the frequency of helicopters that fly over the affected neighborhoods and placement of noise monitors to capture noise levels that negatively impact Whitestone, Melba Gardens and the surrounding neighborhoods. Residents in Whitestone, Malba Garden, and other Queens communities are in need additional monitors to accurately track the noise, flight patterns, decibel level of the helicopter models and the path of helicopters to assess their impact on local residents. We ask this information be available for the public and that the agency use it to mitigate the noise and traffic concerns of residents.

In recent years, due to increased passenger flights to the east end of Long Island, members of these communities have had to endure elevated noise levels as a result of frequent helicopter traffic. Communities in Queens are highly concentrated, meaning many along flight paths are constantly bombarded with noise from multi-engine helicopters, which is having a significant and negative impact on the quality of life of these residents.

The FAA has the authority to create and make changes to helicopter flight patterns, and we would ask that the FAA continue to work to create, wherever possible, all-water routes in-and-around the New York area. By establishing all-water routes, the FAA can help protect residents from this detrimental noise, while also providing a predictable, economic, safe and feasible route for commuter helicopter traffic. These proposed changes to adjust the flight patterns to all-water routes will provide relief to residents in the aforementioned affected areas.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. We are confident the FAA will continue its longstanding effort to provide safe, timely and efficient air travel that does not inflict undue hardship on local communities.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senate



Michael Simanowitz
New York State Assembly
District 27



Tony Avella
State Senator
11th Senatorial District



Edward C. Braunstein
New York State Assembly
District 26