

DONALD S. BEYER, JR.  
8TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

COMMITTEE ON  
SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

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October 13, 2016

Michael P. Huerta  
Administrator  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Aviation Administration  
800 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20591

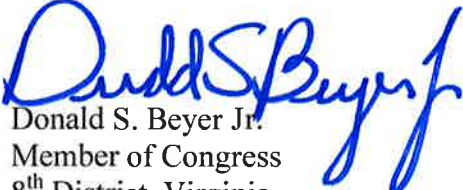
Dear Administrator Huerta:

I write concerning a very important change the FAA is considering to north flow departure procedures at National Airport. The proposed design change – drafted in consultation with the DCA Noise Working Group, the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, and representatives of two airlines – is intended to increase flight time over the Potomac River and to increase the distance between aircraft and Prohibited Area 56.

In September the FAA held a community workshop in Arlington to provide more information about the proposed change and received comments from impacted residents. As I know you are aware, Arlingtonians have raised serious concerns with many aspects of the plan, including the environmental review process and the modeling used to reach a Finding of No Significant Impact. While the FAA performed an environmental review of the new route, it may be necessary to conduct noise testing in-field, rather than by simulation. I believe communities would be better informed if such a review is undertaken. I strongly encourage you to address these concerns and, if necessary, delay the implementation of LAZIR B until addressed.

Thank you for your participation in the DCA Noise Working Group and your outreach efforts in response to community concerns. I appreciate your commitment to mitigating aircraft noise from National Airport, and I stand ready to assist you in achieving this goal.

Sincerely,

  
Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress  
8<sup>th</sup> District, Virginia