



# SOUTH FLOW ALLIANCE

Fighting for Quiet Skies

The South Flow Alliance is a group of concerned citizens working to reduce the severe increase of aircraft noise pollution over our communities since the 2015 implementation of the new NextGen air traffic control system at Reagan National Airport.

With support from our elected officials and cooperation from the Federal Aviation Administration, we aim to restore our peaceful neighborhoods and quality of life.

## How can YOU help?

- 1) Log MANY DAILY noise **complaints** with Reagan National airport online:

**<https://complaints.bksv.com/dca>**

The number of complaints gets monitored and noticed.

- 2) Check out the **SFA Facebook** page to inform yourself on the issue.  
'Like' us to show support and 'share' it with your neighbors & friends.



**[www.facebook.com/southflowalliance](http://www.facebook.com/southflowalliance)**

- 3) **Call** and/or write to our **elected officials** to show them that this issue concerns many of their voters and deserves immediate attention. We have provided a template letter and contact information on the following pages.
- 4) **Write** a letter-to-the-editor for a **local paper** or an opinion piece for your neighborhood newsletter. The more press coverage this issue receives, the better the chances that the FAA will take action. We have provided some talking points and contact information on the following pages.
- 5) **Become an active member** of the SFA by signing up with one of our committees:  
**Educate** your community by helping to distribute fliers on your street or at the Farmers Market. **Mobilize** your neighbors by being a block captain. **Collect data** or take a video to present to the FAA at future meetings. **Reach out** to other communities to grow & strengthen our group. Help **plan & organize** our next steps to success. Please talk to any of our Committee Heads after the event for details & to sign up.

## HOW TO CONTACT YOUR SENATORS AND CONGRESSMAN

**Tip #1:** Because the FAA is a federal agency, members of Congress are in a position to influence the FAA more than politicians at the state and local levels.

**Tip#2:** The South Flow Alliance encourages you to call each of the members of Congress below, and ask your friends and neighbors to call as well. Phone calls make the biggest impact. If you prefer to write, letters have more impact than emails.

### **U.S. Senator Tim Kaine (D-VA)**

231 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
Phone: (202) 224-4024  
Fax: (202) 228-6363

### **U.S. Senator Mark Warner (D-VA)**

703 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
Phone: 202-224-2023

### **U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (VA-8)**

1119 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
P: (202) 225-4376  
F: (202) 225-0017

## SAMPLE LETTER TO OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

On the next page you will find a template you can use to write to your Senator or Congressman (or all 3!).

You can use it as a guideline to formulate your own letter or use the page as the letter itself.

Please make sure to **print your full name and address** after your signature at the end.

Dear \_\_\_\_\_

As a constituent and voter living in Alexandria, Virginia, south of DCA, I am writing to let you know about the terrible impact the new FAA Next Generation Air Transportation (NextGen) has on my neighborhood. Since NextGen procedures were implemented in 2015, the aircraft noise in my neighborhood has been unbearable, and it gets worse every year. At peak times, we are living under an airplane superhighway, with planes flying over every 30 seconds for hours on end. This will only get worse as DCA air traffic increases.

Contrary to official noise monitor data, what we are hearing over our houses frequently exceeds 65 DNL dB (Day Night average sound Level in decibels). DCA flights start as early as 5:15am and often continue until 1am. The noise interrupts sleep and makes it difficult to concentrate. Outside, the noise drowns out conversations and disrupts outdoor activities.

When Congress passed the 2012 FAA Modernization and Reform Act mandating NextGen there was no requirement or opportunity for community consultation or environmental studies. On some days, hundreds of planes fly over my house. I am worried about the impact on the environment, on my family's physical and emotional health, and on our property value.

Some 1,000 members of my community have signed a petition expressing concern about the noise created by NextGen flight tracks. In June 2016, around 300 people attended a town hall meeting at DCA with the FAA to discuss the impact of NextGen on the community. The FAA indicated that it would take 9-12 months to study and implement a new procedure, once it was started, to address these noise issues. June 2017 will mark 12 months with no action taken by the FAA.

We need your help in getting the FAA to implement the process necessary to expedite changes to the DCA south flow departure procedure. Please support the proposed plan to extend the south flow departure flight path over the Potomac River until they reach a higher altitude before making the transition turn to the west. This would reduce noise and disruptions for all resident between Old Town and Mount Vernon.

Thank you for your swift attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

Name & Address:

# SOUTH FLOW ALLIANCE AGAINST NEXTGEN AIRPLANE NOISE

## KEY POINTS FOR LETTERS-TO-THE-EDITOR

### **Air traffic noise over Alexandria neighborhoods south of DCA has increased exponentially since the FAA implemented the NextGen system.**

The noise and number of flights has increased drastically with the implementation of the FAA's Next Gen air traffic control system at DCA in 2015. In 2016, planes flew over ever minute; this year, it's every 30 seconds at peak travel times. And the airport plans to further increase air traffic in the coming years.

### **The FAA touts NextGen's efficiencies, but hides the human cost.**

Designed to increase fuel efficiency and increase the number of flights in and out of airports, NextGen is similar to a robotic assembly line that sends airplanes along one conveyor belt, traveling over the same neighborhoods over and over, often at low altitudes and sometimes at a rate of one airplane every 30 seconds for hours on end.

Airplanes start as early as 5:15 am and fly as late as 12:00 and 1:00 am. The noise is often unbearable. Residents are concerned about the impact on their health, quality of life, and property value.

### **Tell how Next Gen affects you. Common concerns are:**

- **Disturbed Sleep**
- **Difficulty working from home**
- **Perpetual, often unbearable noise**
- **Inability to use outdoor space:** Forget backyard barbecues. At peak flight times, noise is loud enough to disrupt conversations when people are trying to enjoy their backyards.
- **Health and safety concerns:** children not being heard over the planes; plane crashes; pollution from airplanes; psychological impact of constant noise
- **Affect on children's learning:** Several elementary schools are under the flight paths.

**The FAA implemented NextGen without community notification or consultation, and did not conduct any environmental studies.** Quiet communities turned into airplane superhighways overnight, with no advance warning. The environmental impact on people living below the flight paths is unknown.

### **The community has spoken but the FAA hasn't budged**

In 2016, nearly 1,000 community members signed a petition expressing concern over NextGen's noise pollution. In June of that year, more than 300 outraged residents overflowed a town hall meeting with the FAA at DCA. At this meeting the FAA pledged to begin investigating an alternative flight path. Now almost 1 year later the FAA has taken no action.

**The citizens of the Mount Vernon District have a plan to fix the problem. The FAA needs to implement this solution immediately!**

There is a viable plan to keep planes over the river and increase their altitude to minimize noise. This plan has been presented to the MWAA Working Group. The MVCCA (Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations) and the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors have both approved this plan. Citizens need to demand swift action from the FAA in implementing this solution.

In addition, rather than increasing the number of flights at DCA, which is in the middle of a highly populated urban area, more flights need to be moved out to Dulles.

**The FAA should serve the taxpayers that pay their salaries, not the airline industry's thirst for profits.**

**WHERE TO SUBMIT LETTERS-TO-THE-EDITOR**

**Mount Vernon Voice**

By E-Mail: [mountvernonvoice@aol.com](mailto:mountvernonvoice@aol.com)

By Regular Mail:

Mount Vernon Voice

P.O. Box 15572

Alexandria, VA 22309

**Mount Vernon Gazette**

Submit at this link: <http://www.mountvernongazette.com/contact/letter/>

**Alexandria Gazette**

Submit at this link: <http://www.alexandriagazette.com/contact/letter/>

**Washington Post**

Submit at this link:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/letter-to-the-editor/>