

Metropolitan Washington  
Airports Authority  
1 Aviation Circle  
Washington, DC 20001-6000



March 21, 2017

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The Honorable Sharon Bulova, Chairman  
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors  
12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 530  
Fairfax, VA 22035-0071

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Fairfax County Board of Supervisors  
Chairman Sharon Bulova

Dear Chairman Bulova:

Thank you for your February 3 letter in support of the Reagan National Community Working Group (Working Group). The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (Airports Authority) appreciates your interest in the group and its work, and we appreciate the contributions and support provided by Fairfax County's community representatives and alternates.

As you know, aircraft noise is a regional as well as a national issue over which airports have very little jurisdiction. Individual airlines control their schedules and fleet mixes, and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has sole jurisdiction over all aspects of commercial aircraft in flight, including flight paths and altitudes. Nevertheless, the Airports Authority understands the concerns expressed by Fairfax County and several other communities in Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia regarding aircraft noise and its impacts. That is why the Airports Authority agreed to organize and facilitate the Working Group as a forum for direct technical discussions between community representatives, the airlines, and the FAA. The Working Group will continue meeting throughout 2017 with our full support.

At the request of several Working Group members, the Airports Authority is considering the implementation of a "Fly Quiet Program" as part of the effort to mitigate the impact of aircraft noise on communities. While several airports have implemented Fly Quiet programs, no two are alike. They differ widely based upon each airport's size and location, runways and other facilities, corporate governance, regulatory structure, and business environment. The Airports Authority is studying these efforts and is working to craft a program that fits within the physical, regulatory, and business environments of Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (Reagan National) and will be supported by the airlines operating at Reagan National.

We look forward to discussing this effort with the Working Group in future meetings. Thank you again for your interest and support of the Working Group and its mission of seeking regional consensus on potential ways to address this very complex issue.

Sincerely,

John E. Potter  
President and Chief Executive Officer

JEP:dm

