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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0529

HENRY A. WAXMAN
29TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

May 26, 2000

Administrator Jane F. Garvey
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, D.C. 20591

Dear Administrator Garvey:

I am writing on behalf of my constituents who reside near the Santa Monica Airport. For the past several years, there has been growing concern in the community over pollution and safety conditions at the airport. I am writing to ask for your assistance in addressing these problems.

The Santa Monica Airport has a unique layout with approximately 75% of the Airport surrounded by residences. Some homes are located as close as 300 feet from the east end of the runway. I have enclosed for your review an aerial photograph which depicts the close proximity of these homes. I have received numerous complaints about noise, vibrations, fumes, and black soot from airport traffic, and these problems have been further exacerbated by the dramatic rise in jet traffic over the last few years.

In addition, an emerging and potentially more profound concern is the growing use of Santa Monica Airport for business jets, which are steadily increasing in number, size, and speed. The use of these aircrafts is not only disruptive to the surrounding neighborhoods but inconsistent with the size and scale of the facility itself. The 5,000 foot runway, built decades ago, does not meet the safety needs of new aircraft with greater momentum on takeoffs and landings. Furthermore, there is no room to lengthen the runway to accommodate the 1,000 foot safety area necessary for the larger, faster jets emerging in the marketplace. Both ends of the runway are lined with houses and there is only an abrupt slope, a street, and then homes.

I therefore request that the FAA take a more active role in addressing the pollution and safety problems experienced by neighbors of the Santa Monica Airport, so that we can establish additional safeguards as soon as possible. To begin this process, I would like to recommend two feasible solutions for the FAA to evaluate:

Administrator Jane F. Garvey

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1. The FAA should designate 1,000 feet of the existing runway as a runway safety area, similar to the runway safety areas required for new runways. By reducing the length of the runway to only 4,000 usable feet for flight planning and purposes, this would effectively set stricter safety guidelines for the types of aircraft that can be used at the airport.
2. With respect to nighttime noise problems, the FAA should institute an 80 dB maximum noise limit on all arriving aircraft during the established departure curfew hours from 11:00 p.m. until 7:00 a.m. on weekdays, and from 11:00 p.m. until 8:00 a.m. on weekends.

The current conditions at Santa Monica Airport and its surrounding neighborhoods will only continue to deteriorate until pragmatic solutions are put into effect. I hope you will seriously consider these recommendations for the airport. I appreciate your attention to this important matter and look forward to your response.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely,



HENRY A. WAXMAN
Member of Congress

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