



August 5, 2024

The Honorable Michael Whitaker
Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20591

Marie Kennington-Gardiner
Regional Administrator, Eastern Region
Federal Aviation Administration
1 Aviation Plaza
Jamaica, NY 11434

Dear Administrator Whitaker and Regional Administrator Kennington-Gardiner:

We write to urge the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to consider alternate approach procedures for flights into John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK). The current procedures bombard Long Island communities with unsustainable noise loads and must be modified as soon as possible.

As you are well aware, airplane noise continues to impact communities around JFK, specifically those under the typical flightpath for an airplane approaching runway 22L/R. Many of these neighborhoods experience almost-constant noise pollution from flights overhead; some constituents wake up to airplanes as early as 4:30am and go to sleep with plane noise in the background past midnight. In addition to causing continuous disruptions to the daily lives of residents, noise exposure is scientifically known to cause a physical stress response in individuals, which can include increases in heart rate and blood pressure, and may increase their risk of heart disease in the long-term. Furthermore, according to the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, runway 22L/R received an average of almost half of all arrivals per month between July 2022 and July 2023, reaching a high of 76% of monthly arrivals in July 2023.

In 2019, Congressman Tom Suozzi brokered multiple deals with the FAA Eastern Regional Office to alter arrival procedures for JFK runway 22L/R, such that aircraft landing on runway 22L/R must remain at or above 3,000 ft until they are within 15 miles of the airport. Air traffic controllers implemented this guidance and airplane noise impacts decreased. However, the guidance was inexplicably abandoned 18 months later. Airplanes are now flying at altitudes closer to 2,000 ft at distances over 15 miles away from JFK, needlessly disrupting residents' daily lives once again.

Airplane noise from flights approaching JFK runway 22L/R presents a significant disruption to our constituents' quality of life and also poses a meaningful public health threat. Therefore, we request that the FAA assess the following solutions, which would preclude additional impacts on other communities. We ask that you share your conclusions as quickly as possible.

1. Reimplementation of the 2019 agreement to keep aircraft approaching JFK runway 22L/R at or above 3,000 ft until they are within 15 miles of JFK

2. A continuous descent procedure into runway 22L/R starting at 4,000 ft altitude at a distance of 12 nautical miles away from JFK, descending at an angle of 3 degrees

Moreover, there are additional proposals to address airplane noise that we know will require further study as well as discussions with other communities that could be affected. We request that you assess the following additional solutions and share your conclusions with us within 90 days of receipt of this letter.

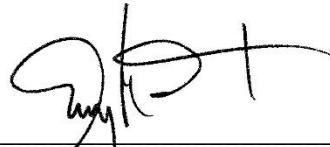
3. Runway dispersal to reduce the number of flights utilizing runway 22L/R and disturbing the associated overflight communities
4. Flight path dispersal before aircraft begin final approach into runway 22L/R to reduce the concentration of flights over certain communities

We urge the FAA to act quickly and creatively within the parameters of safe airspace operation to mitigate the impacts of airplane noise on the lives of our constituents. Since we were previously able to find a compromise that accomplished both of these goals, we are hopeful that the FAA will once again work with us to develop a long-term solution to this ongoing issue.

Sincerely,



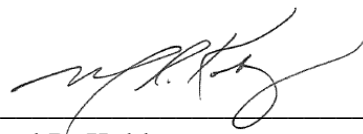
Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress



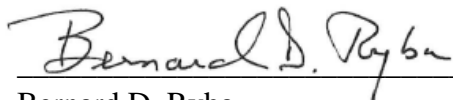
Anthony D'Esposito
Member of Congress



Senator Jack M. Martins
New York State Senate



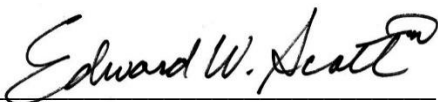
Michael R. Koblenz
Mayor, Village of East Hills



Bernard D. Ryba
Mayor, Village of Old Brookville



Daniel H. Serota
Mayor, Village of Brookville



Edward Scott
Council Member, Town of North Hempstead