

DC METROPLEX BWI COMMUNITY ROUNDTABLE
c/o Maryland Department of Transportation Aviation Administration
P.O. Box 8766
BWI Airport, Maryland 21240-0766

December 4, 2017

The Honorable Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.
Governor of Maryland
State House
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Governor Hogan:

We are writing to express our support of your decision that Attorney General Brian Frosh seek legal action to compel the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to correct the harms caused by DC Metroplex/NextGen's changes in flight paths, low-flying aircraft and concentration of aircraft into narrow corridors. We also commend the selection of outside counsel Kaplan Kirsch & Rockwell LLP who it appears has achieved significant success thus far for the City of Phoenix in *City of Phoenix, Arizona v. Michael P. Huerta and Federal Aviation Administration* in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

The BWI Roundtable was requested by the FAA and was formed by the Maryland Department of Transportation Aviation Administration (MAA). In monthly meetings with the FAA, the Roundtable has sought solutions for the negative effects brought about by the implementation of the DC Metroplex/NextGen scheme. We have not wavered from our initial request to the FAA asking that they revert to pre-DC Metroplex/NextGen flight paths and procedures. We have consistently given FAA representatives a concise picture of the crushing impact DC Metroplex/NextGen has had on Maryland residents living under current flight paths. The Roundtable's July 25, 2017, letter to the FAA requests the FAA to implement remedial actions FAA representatives stated in the immediately preceding July 18 Roundtable meeting were feasible and achievable in a very short time frame. Our September 8, 2017, letter to the FAA sets out plain statements, including diagrams, of how the FAA's DC Metroplex/NextGen scheme has changed and the features of previous flight paths which were acceptable to residents. Copies of these letters have been provided to you.

In July, 2017, the FAA announced a Performance Based Navigation (PBN) working group would be assigned to the DC/BWI/Dulles Metroplex project to evaluate possible solutions. Our September 8 letter was sent to the PBN working group containing information the Roundtable discussed with the FAA over the previous six months. At our November meeting, PBN working group representatives provided an update on their findings. It was obvious from their presentation that they had neither heard our requests nor addressed the bulk of our concerns. Indeed, they refused to acknowledge they had even received our September 8 letter. While the PBN working group seems to be making changes to some departure routes, they seem reluctant

to take actions needed to address arrivals. Nor are they dealing with the concentration and lower altitudes associated with the new routes. Merely relocating the existing super highways in the sky as proposed by the PBN working group does not provide relief for communities subjected to repeated airplane departures and arrivals. Needless to say, after nearly half a year of Roundtable meetings, we are greatly disappointed.

Despite our disappointment with the recent PBN meeting, we will continue to seek resolution through the Roundtable process. The FAA has expended significant resources on the PBN working group and we believe that process should continue. The PBN working group has assured us they now understand what we want; although, they did not promise that they would correct the problems created by the DC Metroplex/NextGen program. They promised to return for the Roundtable's February meeting with new proposals and we look forward to their presentation.

The pursuit of legal action to compel the FAA to take corrective actions and the efforts of the BWI Roundtable can and should run a parallel course as we believe both pursuits are important in finally bringing relief to the citizens of Maryland.

We greatly appreciate your support.

Very sincerely,



Lance Brasher
Chairman,
DC Metroplex BWI Community Roundtable

cc: Attorney General Brian E. Frosh
The Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin
The Honorable Christopher Van Hollen, Jr.
The Honorable Andrew P. Harris, M.D.
The Honorable C.A. Dutch Ruppertsberger
The Honorable John P. Sarbanes
The Honorable Anthony G. Brown
The Honorable Steny H. Hoyer
The Honorable John K. Delaney
The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings
The Honorable Jamie B. Raskin
Mr. Christopher Yates, DC Metroplex BWI Community Roundtable Vice Chair
Mr. Paul Shank, P.E., Chief Engineer, Div. of Planning & Engineering, MAA