

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY



The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kirsten E. Gillibrand
United States Senate
478 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-3205

Dear Senators:

We write to you in gratitude for your past help with aircraft and helicopter noise issues that have plagued the downstate region. We are again asking for your help on an issue that is of great concern to our mutual constituents. We ask that you consider the impacts on the noise issue as Congress moves into the final stages of drafting legislation to reauthorize the Federal Aviation Administration.

As you may know, the Congressional Quiet Skies Caucus, which includes many members from our region, has sent a letter to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee (see attached) listing issues associated with aircraft noise and pollution which are very important to our constituents. One significant issue is changing the noise threshold from 65 DNL, as it has been since 1970, to 55 DNL which is the accepted threshold for the EPA, the World Health Organization and much of the rest of the world. A recent Harvard School of Medicine study conducted under a contract with the FAA has shown that any noise above 55 DNL will lead to an increased risk of cardiovascular disease. In addition to supporting the need for a lower noise threshold based on these specific concerns, this study clearly indicates that the impact of constant noise is no longer an issue of mere annoyance, but one that we must also consider the health impacts of too.

As the Port Authority continues to undertake the Part 150 Study we have fought so hard for together, a lower DNL value will help more of our constituents qualify for mitigation. Please note that a threshold change cannot in anyway be used to prevent any aircraft from take offs or


landings at U.S. airports. The benefits for the people who live beneath these flight routes would, however, be immeasurable. Please consider supporting a change of the noise threshold from 65 DNL to 55 DNL by introducing or co-sponsoring legislation to ensure this is included in the FAA reauthorization.

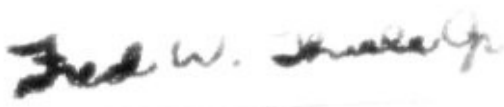
If you or your staff needs any other background information, please do not hesitate to contact us.


Thank you in advance for your consideration.


Sincerely

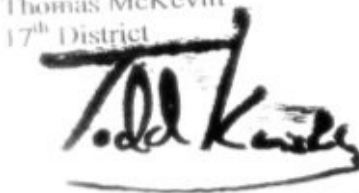

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19th District



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26th District



Fred W. Thiele Jr.
1st District



Thomas McKeivitt
17th District


Chad A. Lupinacci
10th District


Todd D. Kaminsky
20th District


Andrew P. Raia
12th District



Michelle Solages
22nd District

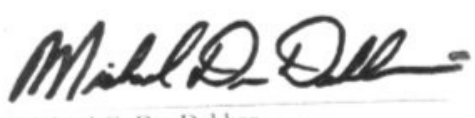

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24th District


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