



JAMIE RASKIN
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
8TH DISTRICT, MARYLAND

July 27, 2020

Stephen Dickson
Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
800 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Administrator Dickson:

I write to express my strong opposition to the proposed rule titled “Noise Certification of Supersonic Airplanes, RIN No. 2120-AL29.”

The proposed rule change would place an additional noise burden on a massive group of my constituents who live near a commercial airport. I represent more than 20,000 households that are already severely affected by noise from subsonic airplanes complying with a more stringent noise standard than is now being proposed. The intention of the proposed rule is to allow supersonic airplanes to meet a noise certification that is louder than the current Stage 5 noise certification standard for comparable subsonic aircraft. This means that new supersonic airplanes will be among the loudest aircraft type allowed to operate at commercial airports.

The proposed rule would abdicate and nullify one of the Federal Aviation Administration’s major roles, as stated on your website: “Developing and carrying out programs to control aircraft noise and other environmental effects of civil aviation.” A new supersonic noise standard should seek to meet or improve current noise standards, not undermine and shred present standards.

The proposed change ignores many of the interests included in the 2018 FAA Reauthorization Act. The bill contains several noise mitigation measures, all of which were written to address the wearying noise problems that citizens experience now under the Stage 5 certification standard. Obviously, the direction coming from Congress was to reduce noise from airplanes - not increase it.

Given all the years of effort that citizen groups across the United States have invested in working with the FAA to curtail harmful airplane noise, promulgation of a weaker noise standard will send a stark message to those communities that their efforts have been meaningless and their future peace and quiet a hopeless cause.

Actions supporting development of air transportation should not be taken at the expense of citizens on the ground. We can do a lot better than this. Therefore, I respectfully request that the FAA reject the proposed rule.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jamie Raskin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress