



HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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Senator Delores Kelley, Chair
Finance Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 3 East
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Testimony **IN SUPPORT** of SB 658 – Transportation – Maryland Aviation Infrastructure Impacts Commission

Dear Chair Kelley, Vice Chair Feldman, and Members of the Committee,

I commend Senator Lam and his co-sponsors for their consistent advocacy working on this pressing aviation issue that has adverse environmental and health impacts on our community.

Senate Bill 658 would establish the Maryland Aviation Infrastructure Impacts Commission, conceived by the leadership of the BWI Community Roundtable. This Commission is needed to address a significant gap in Maryland's transportation and public health policy. Commission members will have the expertise and background to study and make recommendations on the health and environmental impacts of the commercial aviation flight patterns as implemented by the Federal Aviation Administration over five years ago.

We have been working to alleviate the impacts of the NextGen System as a member of the DC Metroplex BWI Community Roundtable since March 2017 when the Roundtable was formed. As a former Councilmember, I sponsored CB7-2017, which authorized taking legal action against the FAA in the U.S. Court of Appeals. In 2019, we filed a second legal petition against the Federal Aviation Administration following the approval of the BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport expansion plan; a plan that lacks consideration of the adverse noise impacts to residents in the area.

We have also engaged a consulting firm to provide us with additional data regarding the level of noise in our communities and how those noise levels may change under revised flight patterns. We look forward to reviewing the results of the MDPT funded study this fall on the health impacts of air traffic, which will hopefully provide even more information for the proposed commission.

As County Executive, I will continue to advocate for our residents who suffer potential health risks and a declining quality of life experienced due to changing aviation patterns. I welcome your support and urge a favorable report on SB 658.

All the Best,

Calvin Ball
Howard County Executive