

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

February 3, 2020

Doug Parker
Chief Executive Officer
American Airlines, Inc.
4255 Amon Carter Boulevard
Fort Worth, Texas 76155

Dear Mr. Parker:

We write in regards to ongoing concerns regarding elevated noise levels created by NextGen flight paths in Massachusetts communities and communities throughout the country. Given your company's operations at Boston Logan International Airport,¹ we ask that your airline take measures to reduce airplane-related noise problems that have affected Massachusetts residents and others affected by airplane noise issues across the country, including communities in and around San Diego, Seattle, Los Angeles, and Washington, DC.^{2 3}

Since the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) introduced the NextGen satellite-based navigation system in 2013, which was meant to create more fuel-efficient flight paths, our offices have heard from numerous communities in Massachusetts that have experienced increased airplane noise⁴. The Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport), which operates Boston Logan International Airport, and several municipalities have seen a sharp spike in airplane noise complaints since implementing NextGen. For example, in the first two months of 2019, Massport received nearly 18,000 total noise complaints from Greater Boston,⁵ and as of September 2019, the City of Medford, Massachusetts, alone received nearly 25,000 noise complaints for the year.⁶

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² Wall Street Journal, "Airplane Noise Complaints Are Skyrocketing: 'I Start Pushing That Button at 6:33 a.m.,'" Katy McLaughlin, August 24, 2018, <https://www.wsj.com/articles/airplane-noise-complaints-are-skyrocketing-i-start-pushing-that-button-at-6-33-a-m-1535121271>.

³ Washington Post, "Complaints about noise from Washington-area airports skyrocket," Lori Aratani, November 23, 2018, https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/trafficandcommuting/complaints-about-noise-from-washington-area-airports-skyrocket/2018/11/23/d578951c-ece7-11e8-96d4-0d23f2aaad09_story.html.

⁴ Boston Globe, "FAA hearing more complaints over Logan airplane noise," Johanna Seltz, November 24, 2015, <https://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/regionals/south/2015/11/24/faa-hearing-more-complaints-over-logan-airplane-noise/CgHxuliUwctggrHOpJS9UP/story.html>

⁵ Boston Herald, "Medford residents bemoan noise from Logan jets," Rick Sobey, April 13, 2019, <https://www.bostonherald.com/2019/04/13/fed-up-in-medford-residents-bemoan-noise-from-logan-jets/>.

⁶ Boston Globe, "In Medford, noise complaints from airplanes are going through the roof," John Laidler, September 6, 2019, <https://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/globelocal/2019/09/06/medford-noise-complaints-from-airplanes-are-going-through-roof/4QXLKuvwQDlsGeOxbzRBQI/story.html>.

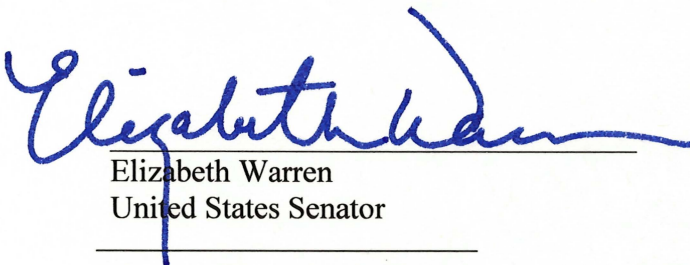
Researchers continue to study the noise issues caused by the new flight patterns and impacts on local communities.⁷

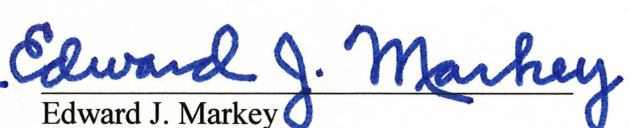
The *Air Traffic Noise and Pollution Expert Consensus Act of 2019*⁸ was introduced to require the FAA to work with the National Academy of Sciences to study the effects of air traffic noise and pollution on human health. This bill would seek to determine causes of increased noise reports and health impacts of increased jet noise and to make recommendations on how to address the problem. The *Cleaner, Quieter Airplanes Act* has also been introduced to make investments in the technology needed to cut airplane noise and carbon pollution from commercial airlines in half.⁹ ¹⁰ As Congress works to address airplane noise, and address the noise pollution that has resulted from FAA's new navigation system, your company can also take steps to alleviate concerns of communities affected by increased airplane noise.

Several airlines with operations at Boston Logan Airport have voluntarily taken measures to address airplane-related noise problems affecting nearby communities. Notably, in October 2018, following a letter we sent with other members of the Massachusetts congressional delegation, JetBlue announced plans to retrofit their entire Airbus fleet with noise-reducing vortex generators.¹¹ In our letter to JetBlue, we noted that airlines, including Air France, British Airways, Lufthansa, and United Airlines, voluntarily retrofitted or developed plans to retrofit certain aircrafts with generators that would reduce airplane noise.¹² We ask that your company implement similar measures.

We ask that your company take steps to reduce airplane noise from your fleet and provide information about how your company has worked to mitigate noise-related complaints associated with your airplanes by February 28, 2020.

Sincerely,


Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator


Edward J. Markey
United States Senator

⁷ Boston 25 News, "Medford residents say they're overloaded with plane noise from Logan," Kirsten Glavin, September 16, 2019, <https://www.boston25news.com/news/medford-residents-say-they-re-overloaded-with-plane-noise-from-logan/987032337/>.

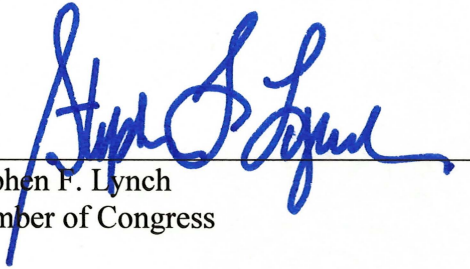
⁸ Air Traffic Noise and Pollution Expert Consensus Act of 2019, S. 2506/H.R. 976, <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/2506>, <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/976>.

⁹ Cleaner, Quieter Airplanes Act, S. 2837/H.R. 5450, <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/2837>, <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/5450>.


¹⁰ Cleaner, Quieter Airplanes Act, H.R. 5450, <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/5450>.

¹¹ Office of Senator Warren, "Sens. Warren and Markey Statement on JetBlue Decision to Retrofit Planes with Noise-Reducing Generators," October 16, 2018, <https://www.warren.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/sens-warren-and-markey-statement-on-jetblue-decision-to-retrofit-planes-with-noise-reducing-generators>.

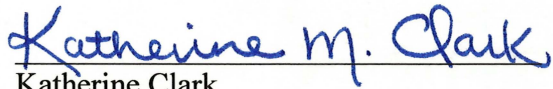
¹² Letter from Senators Elizabeth Warren and Edward Markey and Representatives Michael Capuano and Stephen Lynch to JetBlue President and Chief Executive Officer Robin Hayes, November 21, 2016, https://www.warren.senate.gov/files/documents/2016-11-22_JetblueMassDelegation.pdf.




Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



Joseph P. Kennedy III
Member of Congress



Katherine Clark
Member of Congress



Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

February 3, 2020

Ed Bastian
Chief Executive Officer
Delta Air Lines, Inc.
1030 Delta Blvd.
Atlanta, Georgia 30320

Dear Mr. Bastian:

We write in regards to ongoing concerns regarding elevated noise levels created by NextGen flight paths in Massachusetts communities and communities throughout the country. Given your company's operations at Boston Logan International Airport,¹ we ask that your airline take measures to reduce airplane-related noise problems that have affected Massachusetts residents and others affected by airplane noise issues across the country, including communities in and around San Diego, Seattle, Los Angeles, and Washington, DC.^{2 3}

Since the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) introduced the NextGen satellite-based navigation system in 2013, which was meant to create more fuel-efficient flight paths, our offices have heard from numerous communities in Massachusetts that have experienced increased airplane noise⁴. The Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport), which operates Boston Logan International Airport, and several municipalities have seen a sharp spike in airplane noise complaints since implementing NextGen. For example, in the first two months of 2019, Massport received nearly 18,000 total noise complaints from Greater Boston,⁵ and as of September 2019, the City of Medford, Massachusetts, alone received nearly 25,000 noise complaints for the year.⁶

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³ Washington Post, "Complaints about noise from Washington-area airports skyrocket," Lori Aratani, November 23, 2018, https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/trafficandcommuting/complaints-about-noise-from-washington-area-airports-skyrocket/2018/11/23/d578951c-ece7-11e8-96d4-0d23f2aaad09_story.html.

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⁵ Boston Herald, "Medford residents bemoan noise from Logan jets," Rick Sobey, April 13, 2019, <https://www.bostonherald.com/2019/04/13/fed-up-in-medford-residents-bemoan-noise-from-logan-jets/>.

⁶ Boston Globe, "In Medford, noise complaints from airplanes are going through the roof," John Laidler, September 6, 2019, <https://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/globelocal/2019/09/06/medford-noise-complaints-from-airplanes-are-going-through-roof/4QXLKuvwQDlsGeOxbzRBQl/story.html>.

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⁸ Air Traffic Noise and Pollution Expert Consensus Act of 2019, S. 2506/H.R. 976, <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/2506>, <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/976>.

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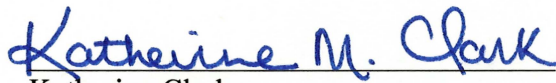
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February 3, 2020

Gary C. Kelly
Chief Executive Officer
Southwest Airlines Co.
2702 Love Field Dr.
Dallas, Texas 75235

Dear Mr. Kelly:

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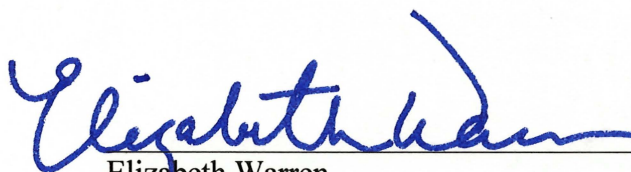
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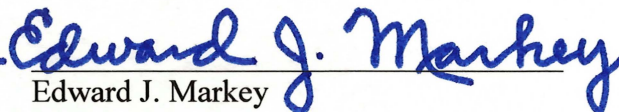
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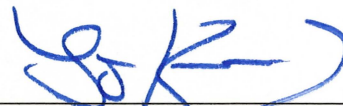
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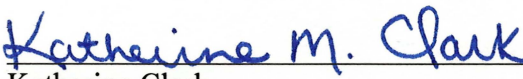
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