

March 22, 2020

Dear Members of Congress:

As you are preparing to vote on a bailout for the airline industry, we write to ask that it include protections for people impacted by dangerously concentrated levels of aircraft noise and emissions pollution.

We realize that this bill is being passed very quickly. However, if at all possible, we'd like to see any or all of the following conditions included in any bailout bill for the airline industry:

1. Nighttime curfews. Curfews would enormously improve the lives of millions of Americans who are seriously disturbed by nighttime noise and would be straight-forward, effective, and enforceable. Curfews could be instituted easily while the airlines are ramping back up after the big cutbacks in service caused by this crisis.
2. Airlines should be required to direct airplane traffic over non-residential areas (e.g., oceans, bays, rivers, industrial areas) whenever they are flying under 10,000 feet altitude. Where residential overflights are totally unavoidable, airlines should no longer be permitted to concentrate them all over the same communities.
3. Commission the National Academy of Science to publish a consensus report through the Academy's Division of Medical Science, reviewing existing studies of the public health impact of performance-based navigation.
4. Require airlines to retrofit vortex generators to Airbuses/A320s during scheduled major maintenance, including semi-annual reports of number A320's in fleet, # retrofitting, timeline for remaining.

This reflects the thinking of the member groups of the Quiet Skies Conference, a national organization of aviation-focused community advocacy groups throughout the country.

Thank you for your consideration,

Legislative Committee, Quiet Skies Conference