

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 10th, 2020

Hon. Stephen M. Dickson
Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20591

To Administrator Dickson:

We write to emphasize the comments submitted by the Santa Clara/Santa Cruz Counties Airport/Community Roundtable (SCSC Roundtable) on the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Noise Certification of Supersonic Airplanes. We have attached those comments to this letter. The roundtable is comprised of local leaders from our Congressional Districts and represents 2.2 million people. It works to foster collaboration to alleviate airplane noise for our constituents. The roundtable has made reasonable and substantive requests for the final rule.

First, at subsonic speeds, new supersonic airplanes should be required to meet the same noise certification level as current new manufactured subsonic airplanes. As you know, all designed aircraft certified starting in 2018 must meet U.S. Stage 5 noise standards. Newly designed supersonic aircraft should be no exception while traveling at subsonic speeds.

Second, automatic noise abatement systems should be required to remain activated at altitudes below 18,000 feet and demonstrate greater noise reduction than if they were not in use. Automatic noise reduction systems, such as Variable Noise Reduction System (VNRS) or Programmed Lapse Rate (PLR) system, promise to reduce airplane noise. Supersonic aircraft should ensure that these systems remain activated when not in Class A airspace, except if shutoff is required for safety. The FAA's certification process should also demonstrate that these systems relatively decrease airplane noise.

The Control and Abatement of Aircraft Noise and Sonic Boom Act of 1968 requires the FAA to protect the public from unnecessary aircraft noise and sonic boom. Airplane noise is a top issue for our constituents. We regularly hear from our constituents about the impact that airplane noise has on their well-being. With that in mind, we urge you to give the comments of the SCSC Roundtable full and fair consideration as you develop the final rule for Noise Certification of Supersonic Airplanes.

Sincerely,



Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress