

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 4, 2014

The Honorable Anthony Foxx  
Secretary of Transportation  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx,

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has given notice of proposed changes to the published routes of aircraft landing and taking off from San Francisco International Airport and other airports in Northern California. The published document is generally referred to as the Northern California (NorCal) Optimization of Airspace and Procedures in the Metroplex (NorCal OAPM) Environmental Assessment. Pursuant to federal law, the FAA published the assessment and invited public comment for 30 days.

It is our opinion and the opinion of local government leaders that additional time is needed to receive critically-needed information about the altitude of airplanes along the new routes. The FAA states that it will determine if the information can be made available and, if so, how quickly it can be disseminated. As things stand at the moment, the 30 day time period would be nearly exhausted before this critically-needed information would become publicly available. The altitude of airplanes over communities heavily influences how much noise is imposed upon residents. One can view a line on paper or on a map but without altitude information one cannot begin to estimate the noise impacts. The FAA has the information. We believe that the public should also have it and, just as importantly, that the public should be given time to incorporate the information into its comments on the Environmental Assessment.

We therefore write to respectfully urge you to instruct the FAA to extend the public comment period on the NorCal OAPM environmental assessment by at least 60 days so that the public and its representatives may make judgments based upon information that the government has, but that is not currently in the public domain. We all want to have a safe, well-functioning aviation system. We believe that this objective is in the public interest. We also believe that the purpose of the Environmental Assessment cannot be well served if critically-needed information is absent

from the published document or only available at the very last minute. Thank you for your time and consideration of this request. Because the 30 day written comment period ends only a few weeks from now—on April 24<sup>th</sup>—we respectfully ask for your timely attention to this matter.

All the best,



Anna Eshoo  
Member of Congress



Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress

cc: Members of the San Francisco Airport Community Roundtable

Ms. Elizabeth Ray, Vice President, Mission Support Services  
Air Traffic Organization  
Federal Aviation Administration  
800 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20591