

MICHAEL M. HONDA

17TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

WASHINGTON OFFICE:

1713 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
PHONE: (202) 225-2631
FAX: (202) 225-2699
<http://www.honda.house.gov>

DISTRICT OFFICE:

900 LAFAYETTE STREET, SUITE 206
SANTA CLARA, CA 95050
PHONE: (408) 436-2720
(855) 680-3759
FAX: (408) 436-2721



Congress of the United States House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE,
RANKING MEMBER (ACTING)

ENERGY AND WATER

SENIOR WHIP

CONGRESSIONAL ASIAN PACIFIC
AMERICAN CAUCUS, CHAIR EMERITUS

TRANSGENDER EQUALITY TASK FORCE,
CHAIR

November 2, 2016

Dear Members of the Select Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the discussion draft of the Report of the Select Committee on South Bay Arrivals.

As the Representative of the residents of California's 17th Congressional District, I want to ensure that the views of my constituents, who could be impacted by some of the solutions proposed in the report, are taken into consideration by the members of the Select Committee as they vote on these recommendations.

On behalf of my constituents, I would ask the Select Committee to amend Potential Solution 2.13 (on pages 23-24 of the report) prior to considering whether to support including this recommendation in the final report. Potential Solution 2.13 proposes to Redirect Southern Arrivals to an Eastern Approach into SFO. I appreciate the inclusion of language in this section noting that moving existing noise to another community is one of the reasons that the Select Committee has not endorsed this solution. Since (as the draft report notes) that this proposal would shift noise to a community not represented by the congressional districts that established the Select Committee, I believe that it would be beneficial to include language with this recommendation making it clear that should the FAA consider spreading the burdens of air traffic and noise to communities not represented by the Select Committee by moving flight paths, community input should be gathered from the elected leadership of the affected regions and municipalities.

Many of my constituents have also experienced the same kind of frustration in dealing with aircraft noise that led to the formation of the Select Committee in the first place. Therefore, I wholeheartedly support a number of the long-term and process recommendations, including:

- the establishment of an ongoing venue to address aircraft noise mitigation that enables the analysis and discussion of multi-airport impacts;
- that Congress require the FAA to adopt supplemental metrics for aircraft noise that characterize the true impact experienced by people on the ground;
- the designation of the FAA as the entity that should be charged with the responsibility for identifying and proposing solutions to mitigate noise concerns, with community groups and elected officials serving to review and comment on those solutions; and
- ongoing compliance monitoring for any set of solutions accepted and implemented by the FAA.

I suggest the addition of a recommendation that the FAA establish a centralized system for submitting noise complaints. Since there are many airports in our area, it can be difficult for

residents to know which one is the origin or destination of an aircraft making problematic noise and is thus the proper airport with which to file a complaint. A centralized system for submitting complaints will help to ensure ongoing compliance with any solutions adopted by making it easier for residents to voice complaints about noise and by making that information easily accessible to the FAA for use in measuring and guaranteeing compliance.

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide input on behalf of my constituents, and thank you for the hard work you all have put into this effort.

Sincerely,



Michael M. Honda
Member of Congress

CC:

The Honorable Jackie Speier, U.S. House of Representatives, 14th District
The Honorable Anna Eshoo, U.S. House of Representatives, 18th District
The Honorable Sam Farr, U.S. House of Representatives, 20th District
FAA Western-Pacific Regional Administrator Glen A. Martin
Members of the Select Committee on South Bay Arrivals
Mineta San José International Airport
Sunnyvale Mayor and City Council