COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
COUNTY OF FAIRFAX
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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February 3, 2026

Marie Kennington-Gardiner
Regional Administrator, Eastern Region
USDOT/Federal Aviation Administration
159-30 Rockaway Blvd.
Jamaica, NY 11434-4848

RE: South of Airport (SoA) Noise Mitigation Project Final Report, Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA)

Dear Ms. Kennington-Gardiner:

On behalf of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to express our support for the South of Airport (SoA) Noise Mitigation Project Final Report for Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA) and the notional flight path recommendations developed through this collaborative, data-driven process. Fairfax County's participation—alongside the City of Alexandria, Virginia and Prince George's County, Maryland—demonstrates a thoughtful regional approach to addressing long-standing aircraft noise impacts affecting communities south of the airport. The work of the Design Team, facilitated by Vianair and informed by Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) operational criteria, reflects a careful balance between technical feasibility and meaningful community benefit. We respectfully call on the FAA to act on this work by advancing these recommendations toward implementation.

This project's Design Philosophy provides a clear and principled framework for success, prioritizing overflight of the Potomac River and other compatible land uses, maximizing altitude where possible, increasing track variability, and avoiding disproportionate impacts on any single community. This philosophy appropriately shifts the focus from individual properties to a broader area, ensuring that recommendations aim to reduce overall noise exposure while providing periods of relief to affected neighborhoods. Importantly, these guiding principles align with best practices in aviation noise mitigation and regional equity.

The proposed notional designs offer tangible benefits for Fairfax County residents. By moving approximately 43% of westbound departures closer to the center of the Potomac River and shifting the primary arrival routes toward less densely populated areas, the project reduces flight concentration over noise-sensitive communities such as Hayfield, Hybla Valley, Woodlawn, and

Kingstowne. While overall noise level reductions may be modest, the anticipated decrease of approximately 30–90 noise events above 55 dB per month represents a meaningful and measurable improvement, coupled with the visual and perceptual benefit of aircraft operating farther from residential areas.

Equally important, the extensive community engagement undertaken throughout this process underscores the project's credibility and responsiveness. Public meetings, surveys, and continued opportunities for comment have ensured that residents' lived experiences informed the analysis and recommendations. We commend the Design Team and Vianair for advancing a transparent process that results in well-supported recommendations to the Community Working Group and the FAA, and we urge serious consideration and further evaluation of these proposals at the federal level, with a goal of implementation.

In conclusion, I would like to reaffirm Fairfax County's support of the recommendations included in the South of Airport (SoA) Noise Mitigation Project Final Report and ask that the FAA take action to implement its recommendations. Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter. If you have questions or would like to discuss this matter further, please contact me at (703) 324-2321 or the County's Legislative Director, Jennifer Van Ee, at (703) 324-2640.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey C. McKay, Chairman

Attachment: South of Airport (SoA) Noise Mitigation Project Final Report (October 18, 2025)

cc: Members, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
Members, Fairfax County Congressional Delegation
Jennifer Van Ee, Fairfax County Legislative Director
Tracy D. Strunk, AICP, Director, Department of Planning and Development (DPD)
Gregg L. Steverson, P.E., PTOE, Director, Department of Transportation (FCDOT)
Board of Directors, Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority