Dan Storck
Mount Vernon District Supervisor
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
2511 Parkers Lane
Mount Vernon, VA 22306

Telephone: (703) 780-7518 *E-mail: mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov*

Supporting the Implementation of a Fly Quiet Program at Reagan National Airport
Joint with Supervisor Dan Storck, Supervisor Jimmy Bierman Jr., and Chairman Jeff McKay
September 30, 2025

Aircraft noise continues to be a serious and growing concern for communities surrounding Reagan National Airport (DCA), including thousands of residents in the Mount Vernon and Franconia Districts who are directly impacted by frequent and concentrated flight paths. In 2015, the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA) created the Reagan National Community Working Group (CWG) to respond to this community concern and to provide practical, community-informed recommendations for noise mitigation.

In 2023, the CWG's Fly Quiet Subcommittee developed Recommendation #27, which calls for MWAA to implement a Fly Quiet Program modeled on successful initiatives at other major U.S. airports such as Los Angeles (LAX), San Francisco (SFO), and Seattle-Tacoma (SEA). These programs use noise data and operational trends to work collaboratively with airlines and community stakeholders to reduce noise exposure and promote voluntary operational improvements.

A key element of the CWG's recommendation is that MWAA engage a qualified independent contractor to provide the technical expertise and data analysis necessary to design and support the program. The estimated cost to MWAA of an independent Fly Quiet Program is $100,000 to $150,000 annually based on proposals from three qualified vendors. This is a relatively modest investment given MWAA's overall budget, and DCA's surrounding communities deserve a program that is robust, transparent, and guided by independent data analysis and community oversight.

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I move that the Board of Supervisors approve and send the attached letter to MWAA President and CEO Jack Potter, expressing the Board's support for the implementation of an independent Fly Quiet Program at Reagan National Airport.

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
COUNTY OF FAIRFAX
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Suite 530
12000 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax, Virginia 22035-0071

Telephone 703-324-2321
Fax 703-324-3955

chairman@fairfaxcounty.gov

Jeffrey C. McKay
Chairman

September 30, 2025
John E. "Jack" Potter
Chief Executive Officer, Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority
1 Aviation Circle
Washington, DC 20001-6000

RE: Supporting the Implementation of a Fly Quiet Program at National Airport

Dear Mr. Potter:

On behalf of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to request your leadership in advancing the implementation of a Fly Quiet Program at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA).

Aircraft noise continues to be a serious and growing concern for communities surrounding DCA, including thousands of Fairfax County residents in the Mount Vernon and Franconia Districts who are directly impacted by concentrated and frequent flight paths. In recognition of these longstanding challenges, MWAA created the Reagan National Community Working Group (CWG) in 2015 to develop practical, community-informed recommendations.
In 2023, the CWG's Fly Quiet Subcommittee issued Recommendation #27, urging MWAA to adopt a Fly Quiet Program modeled on proven programs at major U.S. airports such as Los Angeles (LAX), San Francisco (SFO), and Seattle-Tacoma (SEA). These programs rely on operational data and community collaboration to encourage voluntary operational improvements which can reduce noise levels.

A critical feature of the CWG's recommendation is that MWAA engage a qualified, independent contractor to provide the technical expertise and data analysis necessary to establish and sustain the program. Based on vendor proposals, the estimated cost of such a program is $150,000 to $180,000 annually. This is a modest investment relative to MWAA's overall budget and one that would deliver meaningful benefits through transparency and accountability to the surrounding communities.

For these reasons, the Board respectfully requests your support in advancing and funding an independent, externally managed Fly Quiet Program at DCA. This initiative represents a tangible step toward addressing community concerns and demonstrating MWAA's commitment to balancing operational efficiency and quality of life for nearby residents.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter and for your continued leadership at MWAA. We look forward to your partnership and response in moving this initiative forward.

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Jeffrey C. McKay
Chairman

Suite 530
12000 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax, Virginia 22035-0071

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Fax 703-324-3955

chairman@fairfaxcounty.gov

Sincerely,

Jeffrey C. McKay
Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors