

NOISE

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION TO INSURE A SOUND-CONTROLLED ENVIRONMENT
The National Aviation Noise Lobby • An Affiliate of the National League of Cities

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FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION REAUTHORIZATION PASSES

On November 21, 2003, the House of Representatives and Senate approved the final version of the "Vision 100--Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act", which includes appropriations for FAA business through fiscal year 2007. President Bush signed the bill into law on December 12. Significant changes to the Airport Improvement Program include reserving a greater share of the AIP funds (now 35% of the total) for noise related programs and the ability to direct funds to state and local governments for use in communities lacking a Noise Compatibility Plan. The reauthorization bill also calls for the creation of the FAA Center of Excellence on Noise and Emissions Research for the purpose of examining and researching aircraft noise and emissions issues.

Many of the gains that were made in the bill, including allowing local communities more control over mitigation funding, came after years of NOISE testifying before Congress to urge the adoption of these very suggestions. Despite these gains however, NOISE worked hard against the bill due to a provision that was inserted at the eleventh hour, with no opportunity for a vote or debate. In the conference committee a senator inserted a provision, Sec. 189, which prohibits federal funds from being used for noise mitigation or land acquisition beyond the 65 DNL. NOISE worked with Congress and many of our member communities to strip this provision, but because the amendment was inserted so late there was no way to strip the section without defeating the entire bill. Congress was loathe to halt progress on an otherwise hard fought compromise, and the bill passed with Sec. 189 included. Removing Sec. 189 will be the top NOISE priority on 2004.

FAA CENTER OF EXCELLENCE ON NOISE AND EMISSIONS RESEARCH

The FY'04-07 FAA Reauthorization created a FAA Center of Excellence on Noise and Emissions Research. The center's primary purpose is to study the socio-economic, health, and environmental effects of aviation noise, noise mitigation practices, land use management, and aviation emissions. The center's participants include 8 university and 18 industry partners, including Stanford University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boeing, General Electric Aircraft Engines, and Pratt & Whitney. *NOISE has also been asked to join the center as the only member representing the interests of cities and communities.*

ICAO MAKES RECOMMENDATION ON AVIATION ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

"The Committee on Aviation Environmental Protection (CAEP) of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has made recommendations to reduce the environmental impact of aircraft noise and engine exhaust emissions, including more stringent standards for oxides of nitrogen (Nox) emissions, further progress on market-based measures to limit or reduce emissions, and guidance on the implementation of a 'balanced approach' to noise management... CAEP presented eagerly-awaited guidance material to assist States in the implementation of a 'balanced approach' to noise management, comprising four principal

elements: reduction of noise at the source; land use planning and management; noise abatement operational procedures; and operating restrictions on aircraft.” (ICAO News Release, 2/14/04) *NOISE participates as the environmental and local community representative on the ICAO body.*

2004 NOISE SPRING MEETING

N.O.I.S.E will hold the annual spring breakfast meeting on Monday, March 8 during the National League of Cities Congressional City Conference in Washington, D.C. The event will be held in the Washington Hilton Hotel’s Conservatory Room from 8:00 – 9:30 am. Members are encouraged to bring guests from non-member communities which may be interested in joining N.O.I.S.E. Please RSVP to Andrew Tantillo at (202) 544-9843 if you will be able to attend.

PURDUE UNIVERSITY AIDING NOISE RESEARCH

Purdue University researchers will join with seven other colleges as part of the FAA’s Center of Excellence on Noise and Emissions Research to examine the issues of community growth near airports and how people respond to exposure to aviation noise. Associate Professor of aeronautical technology Gary Eiff will lead an examination of the reasons for housing development near major airports. His research will include surveying residents living near four metropolitan airports, as well as tabulation of real estate values and zoning regulations. The sound exposure study will be conducted by Patricia Davies, an associate professor in Purdue’s School of Mechanical Engineering. This study will examine how aviation noise irritates people. The Center hopes to gain important insight into these issues to assist airports and civic entities in creating policies and programs designed to avoid or resolve conflict between airports and surrounding communities.

- From “The Indianapolis Star”

AIRPORT MONITORING SYSTEM IN PLACE IN QUEENS, NY

The New York Port Authority recently deployed a new aircraft monitoring system which allows the public to track flights to and from Kennedy, LaGuardia, Newark, and Teterboro airports. The software, developed by computer company Megadata, provides “near real-time” displays of air traffic and flight information in and around the four airports and allows aviation authorities and residents to monitor flights to ensure they are following their scheduled flight paths at the correct times of day. For security reasons, the live feed does not indicate the airline or flight number of each plane, but that information is available an hour later.

- From “The Queens Chronicle”

NOISE LEGISLATION TRACKER

| Bill | Title | Sponsor | Cosponsor(s) | Status |
|-----------------------|--|--|----------------|--|
| H.R. 475 | Quiet Communities Act (2/14/2003) | Rep. Lowey (NY) | 20 | Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce's Subcommittee on Environment and Hazardous Materials 2/14/03; referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure's Subcommittee on Aviation 1/30/03. |
| | Would reestablish the Office of Noise Abatement and Control in the Environmental Protection Agency. | | | |
| H.R. 586 | Aeronautics Research and Revitalization Act (2/5/2003) | Rep. Larson (CT) | 28 | Referred to the House Committee on Science's Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics 2/20/03. |
| | Would institute an initiative to develop technologies that will enable future aircraft with significantly lower noise. | | | |
| S. 309 | Aeronautics Research and Development Revitalization Act (2/5/2003) | Sen. Allen (VA) | Sen. Dodd (CT) | Referred to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation 2/5/03. |
| | Would institute an initiative to develop technologies that will enable future aircraft with significantly lower noise. | | | |
| H.R. 592 | National Aviation Capacity Expansion Act (2/6/2003) | Rep. Lipinski (IL) | 11 | Referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure's Subcommittee on Aviation 2/6/03. |
| | Would expand aviation capacity at Chicago O'Hare. | | | |
| S. 83 | National Aviation Capacity Expansion Act (1/7/2003) | Sen. Durbin (IL) | 15 | Referred to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation 1/7/03. |
| | Would expand aviation capacity at Chicago O'Hare. | | | |
| S. 824 / H.R. 2115 | Aviation Investment and Revitalization Vision Act (6/12/2003) | Rep. Young (AK) Sen. McCain (AZ) | 3/3 | Signed into law 12/12/03 |
| | Reauthorizes the FAA | | | |
| S.AMDT 913 | Amendment to the Aviation Investment and Revitalization Vision Act (6/12/2003) | Sen. Craig (WY) | - | Passed by voice vote in the Senate (6/12/2003) |
| | Provides for public access to noise exposure maps, especially when purchasing homes near airports. Places tighter restrictions on the Jackson Hole airport to reduce noise issues in Grand Teton Nation Park | | | |