



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE

**SENATOR BRIAN A. JOYCE**  
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*Chairman*  
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IMPROVE GOVERNMENT

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COMMITTEE ON REDISTRICTING  
JOINT COMMITTEE ON  
HEALTH CARE FINANCING

October 13, 2015

Terry English  
Federal Aviation Administration  
11 Murphy Drive  
Nashua, NH 03062

CEO Thomas P. Glynn  
Massachusetts Port Authority  
One Harborside Drive, Suite 200S  
East Boston, MA 02128

Dear Ms. English and Mr. Glynn,

I write again to express my concerns and frustration about air traffic, and to request important information.

First, I would like to again register my opposition to the proposed change to the Runway 4L flight procedure, which would impose additional burdens on Milton, Massachusetts. Milton is uniquely burdened by flight traffic in the Greater Boston area. It is the only community that receives traffic from four flight paths – Runway 4R arrivals, Runway 4L arrivals, Runway 27 departures, and Runway 33L departures. Boston as a whole may receive traffic from multiple flight paths, but no single neighborhood is impacted by as many flight paths as Milton. Adding additional traffic from Runway 4L only increases the already unfair burden.

Furthermore, the implementation of RNAV flight procedures has been particularly troubling. Although the overall number of homes impacted may be reduced, the homes underneath the resulting “superhighway in the sky” are subject to nearly constant noise when those runways are in use. These airplanes produce emissions and noise that adversely affect health and the environment, disrupt sleep, and interrupt learning in our schools.

I am increasingly hearing from my constituents that planes arriving on Runway 4R seem to be flying lower, and spaced very closely together. I respectfully request that the FAA and MassPort provide me with data from the last 18 months detailing the percentage of the time that Runway 4R has been in use, both cumulatively and monthly, the elevation of those flights, and the number of planes that have overflowed Milton on Runway 4R. I also request information

about the wind direction during the times that Runway 4R is in use. I would also like this information for Runways 27, 33L, and 4L.

I am concerned about the safety of both my constituents underneath Runway 4R and the safety of passengers on the planes. It is clear that safety is compromised when planes are flying lower than what the flight procedure directs, and when planes are spaced only a few seconds apart. It also severely impacts the quality of life of residents on the ground. Additionally, I understand that it is safest for airplanes to both take off and land into the wind.

I am troubled that safety is being sacrificed for the sake of efficiency, and that residents on the ground are being disregarded for the sake of profit. I request that the FAA reconsider the existing flight procedures and distribute the flight paths more equitably.

Sincerely,



**BRIAN A. JOYCE**

State Senator

BAJ:rsa

cc: Senator Elizabeth A. Warren  
Senator Edward J. Markey  
Congressman Stephen F. Lynch  
Congressman Michael E. Capuano  
Milton Board of Selectmen  
Milton CAC Representative Cindy L. Christiansen