



ADAM SMITH

WASHINGTON'S 9TH DISTRICT

Aviation Impacted Communities Act

Rep. Adam Smith (WA-09)

Background: In recent years, some communities have come to experience an increased and disproportionate share of noise and other environmental impacts stemming from commercial aviation. The concerns of residents of these increasingly impacted areas are not being adequately addressed.

The Aviation Impacted Communities Act seeks to help localities, neighborhoods, and community members to more effectively and productively engage with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). This legislation would require that the FAA interface directly with and be responsive to residents and locally nominated leaders on issues of aviation noise and environmental impacts. Through the creation of community boards, affected areas will be empowered to effectively work toward achieving relief from the impacts of civil and commercial aviation.

The Aviation Impacted Communities Act will:

- Establish a new “aviation impacted communities” designation for areas suffering from excessive noise or environmental impacts
- Establish a process to bring together airport operators, designated community leaders, public health and environmental experts, and the FAA to discuss solutions
- Require that appropriate FAA representatives attend community board meetings and respond to community questions and concerns about issues involving aviation or the FAA when requested
- Allow communities to petition the FAA for comprehensive impact studies and require that the FAA develop action plans to respond to communities’ concerns and the recommendations for mitigation provided in the impact studies
- Expand the availability of mitigation funding for aviation impacted communities outside of the current 65 day-night average sound level (DNL) contours
- Provides grants for noise mitigation in a designated community for residences, hospitals, nursing homes, adult or child day care centers, schools, places of worship, or other impacted facilities identified in a community assessment
- Establish a sustainable ongoing revenue stream for relief efforts/noise insulation in the bill through funding from increases in revenue to the Airport and Airways Trust Fund

The burden of airplane noise and environmental impacts should not fall disproportionately on any single group, neighborhood, or community. This bill will help to bring some relief by streamlining the FAA’s engagement processes, allowing residents to directly bring their concerns to the FAA and airport operators, comprehensively assessing the effects of aviation in a given area, and seeking mitigation for those impacts.