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WASHINGTON'S 9TH DISTRICT

Aviation Noise and Emissions Mitigation Act – Fact Sheet Rep. Adam Smith (WA-09)

Background: Studies have demonstrated that communities near airports are exposed to higher proportions of ultra and ultra-ultrafine particles from aviation emissions.ⁱⁱⁱ This kind of exposure suggests that these communities may face increased risks of breast cancer, heart disease, asthma, and a variety of other lung and cardiovascular conditions.ⁱⁱⁱ In addition to poor air quality, airport adjacent communities are increasingly subject to high levels of aircraft noise due to the uptick in air travel over the last several decades. A number of studies have found correlations between exposure to high levels of airport noise and poor health outcomes and negative impacts on children's learning.^{iv}

In order to better support airport adjacent communities impacted by higher level of noise and emissions, the federal government must invest new resources into research and data on community-level impacts and grants to mitigate these impacts.

Aviation Noise and Emissions Mitigation Act seeks to help communities near airports and airflight pathways monitor and mitigate aviation noise and emissions. This legislation would create two new pilot grant programs at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for hyperlocal studies of air quality and noise and for mitigation projects in these communities:

- (1) *Noise and Air Quality Monitoring and Research Grant Program* – a three-year grant at the EPA for higher education institutions, health entities, or local governments to measure noise and emissions levels, and its impacts, on local communities. It would require grantees to collect data and produce neighborhood-level maps on the impact of aviation noise and emissions, the sources of the noise and emissions, and identify disproportionately impacted communities.
- (2) *Mitigation and Support Services Grant Program* – to be established following the noise and air quality monitoring program, this grant program would fund initiatives to mitigate aviation noise and emissions in communities. Eligible entities including community-based non-profit organizations, local or Tribal governments, or local health departments could use the funds for a range of activities such as:
 - noise mitigation packages for homes or other weatherization, retrofitting, or energy efficiency upgrades that have noise reduction, environmental, or health benefits;
 - programs to promote environmental and public health in impacted communities; and
 - health care services or other interventions that address underlying impacts from aviation noise and pollution on health and quality of life.

ⁱ <https://www.washington.edu/news/2019/12/03/communities-around-sea-tac-airport-exposed-to-a-unique-mix-of-air-pollution-associated-with-aircraft/>

ⁱⁱ <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/full/10.1021/es5001566>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://envhealthcenters.usc.edu/2019/02/ultrafine-particle-pollution-lax.html>

^{iv} <https://www.icao.int/environmental-protection/Documents/ScientificUnderstanding/EnvReport2019-WhitePaper-Noise.pdf>