



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY BOARD

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KENDRA JACOBS
CLERK TO THE
COUNTY BOARD

MEMBERS
CHRISTIAN DORSEY
CHAIR
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VICE CHAIR

TAKIS KARANTONIS
MATT DE FERRANTI
KATIE CRISTOL

June 20, 2023

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Chair
U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, & Transportation
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ted Cruz
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, & Transportation
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Cantwell and Ranking Member Cruz,

On behalf of the Arlington County Board, I am writing to express our deep opposition to efforts to change the slot and perimeter rules at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA).

At our County Board Meeting on June 13, 2023, we adopted the attached resolution in response to the proposed changes at the airport located in Arlington County. Arlington County is 26 square miles of residential, business, and government land that borders the restricted air space known as P-56.

Our concerns regarding increased slots and expanded perimeter distances at DCA include jeopardizing the partnership between DCA and Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD); mitigating externalities related to flight paths over dense residential space in Arlington County while preventing incursions of P-56; additional airplane noise from more flights per day; and Federal Aviation Administration conclusions on operational performance and passenger experience.

We thank you for your consideration of our concerns. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at cdorsey@arlingtonva.us.

Sincerely,

Christian Dorsey
Chair, Arlington County Board

cc: The Honorable Mark R. Warner, United States Senate
The Honorable Tim M. Kaine, United States Senate
The Honorable Donald Beyer, United States House of Representatives
Members, Arlington County Board
Members, Arlington County Delegation to the State General Assembly
Mark Schwartz, County Manager
Ilana Creinin, Legislative Liaison



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RESOLUTION OPPOSING CHANGES TO THE PERIMETER RULE AND EXPANDING SLOTS AT WASHINGTON REAGAN NATIONAL AIRPORT IN ARLINGTON COUNTY

WHEREAS, Northern Virginia and the greater Washington Metropolitan Area are well served by Washington Reagan National Airport and Washington Dulles International Airport as operated by the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA); and

WHEREAS, legislation has been recently introduced in the United States Congress that, if enacted, would change the perimeter rule and expand the number of flight slots at Washington Reagan National Airport and threaten the economic vitality of the airports; and

WHEREAS, perimeter rule exemptions and slot expansions enable airlines to transfer long-distance flights from Dulles (IAD), or other airports, to Washington Reagan National (DCA) which will add to DCA's overcrowded conditions and degrade its operating performance; and

WHEREAS, the two airports in northern Virginia were designed to work together and to shift away from current high demand, shorter routes at DCA would diminish service to customers the airport was built to accommodate; and

WHEREAS, Reagan National Airport is located in a dense residential area with unique characteristics, including proximity to restricted air space, which requires careful management of operations to mitigate negative externalities; and

WHEREAS, the noise from planes heard by residents in Arlington County is already pronounced and increasing the frequency and distance of flights will lead to additional noise concerns; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has concluded that "additional flights at DCA would likely have a negative impact on operational performance and passenger experience.;" and

WHEREAS, members of the Arlington County Congressional delegation and Virginia's U.S. Senators have expressed their opposition to said proposed changes to the rule and expansion of slots;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Arlington County Board strongly opposes legislation that reduces slot control and/or adds exemptions from the perimeter rule at DCA; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be distributed to members of the Arlington General Assembly delegation, members of the Arlington Congressional delegation, U.S. Senators, and other key stakeholders.

ADOPTED this 13th day of June 2023