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PHYLLIS L. MARSHALL

March 3, 2015

Amy Lind Corbett, Regional Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
New England Region
12 New England Executive Park
Burlington, MA 01803-5299

Dear Ms. Corbett,

In December of 2013, we wrote to you expressing our communities concerns about the negative impact we were experiencing as a result of Runway 33L RNAV. We asked for community feedback and noise complaints to be considered by the FAA as part of the post-implementation review process. You responded in your letter dated January 15th, 2014 that comments and noise complaints would not be considered as part of these reviews and that any issues with community feedback and noise complaints should be addressed through the Logan CAC.

We have now had 18 months of living with the effects of Runway 33L RNAV and can express to you on behalf of the community of Belmont that the impact has been overwhelmingly negative and significant. We receive numerous complaints from residents about the repetitive nature of the noise from the three RNAV flight paths that now cross our borders. Our CAC representative has been working in concert with our State Legislators and Congressional delegation as well as other impacted communities such as Arlington and Watertown.

Since the implementation of 33L RNAV in June of 2013, Belmont – a community with no noise complaints in 2012 had over 1,600 complaints filed with Massport in 2014. This is the 3rd highest number of complaints from any of the Logan impacted communities. Massport has seen over a 400% increase in noise complaints – a significant portion from communities directly impacted by 33L departures.

There were many concerns expressed in comments from a range of Officials and residents as part of the EA process. Those concerns were responded to with claims that the proposed changes were “not expected to cause significant impacts.” We find that this is not the case as evidenced by the huge increase in noise complaints and resident feedback we continue to receive.

At the January 15th, 2015 meeting of the Logan CAC, the communities of Arlington, Belmont and Watertown brought forward a motion as follows:

“That the FAA re-examine Runway 33L RNAV SID, implemented in June of 2013, in light of the significant increase in noise complaints and negative feedback from communities since implementation and that alternatives or modifications be considered.”

This motion was approved by the entire CAC by a near-unanimous vote and has been communicated by the CAC President to Terry English.

We are writing you now to urge you to be responsive to the CAC’s request to re-examine the narrow, concentrated flight paths currently being used as part of the 33L RNAV procedure. The Town of Belmont and our residents are asking that alternatives are considered that would re-introduce variability to the flight paths to relieve the noise burden from those under the current RNAV routes. The pre-RNAV flight paths, which did put a large number of flights over Belmont did not cause the noise problems we are currently experiencing. Our residents and our community are negatively affected by this change and we trust the FAA will be responsive to these concerns.

Please contact our office or our Logan CAC Representative Myron Kassaraba (logancac@belmont-ma.gov, 617-484-0112) if you have any questions, we look forward to your response.

Very truly yours,



Andrés T. Rojas, Chair
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