

Dear Senator Murray:

This is the second message I have written to you on the Growler noise we experience on Lopez Island (without response).

About 2 years ago the Navy switched to using the Growler aircraft over the Prowlers (A-6), a switch supported by your office. The result has been a significant impact to our lives from the Growler noise including very loud (extreme) flyovers, disruption of day-to-day activities, and frequent rumbling and vibration of our home.

Based on a Navy study (Wyle Aircraft Noise Study dated October 2012), the Growler produces more low-frequency noise, on average 11 decibels, than the Prowler aircraft previously used by the Navy at Whidbey. This increased low-frequency noise has a greater impact on areas further from the base (i.e., San Juan Islands) because it travels further than high-frequency noise. I have supported the Navy in the past but they significantly changed our lives when they changed aircraft, without a thorough review of the environmental impacts.

Something needs to be done by you and our other Washington representatives to mitigate the increased noise that has impacted our lives. A good start would be implementation of Representative Rick Larson's 6-step process sent by letter on 12/16/14 for mitigating noise at NAS Whidbey. We need your help!

Sincerely,

Mark Herrenkohl

Lopez Island