

Dear Senator,

I am writing because I am concerned we in the San Juan Islands are not receiving the appropriate support from you in our efforts to cope with the noise produced by the Growlers at NAS Whidbey Island.

I fear much of this is because you do not have a complete understanding of the issues involved. And your form letters on the subject sent to us over many months do not address the realities of the situation.

There are many critical problems with what the Navy is doing and how it is (man)handling the EIS and other investigations. Truth and sincere concern for the wellbeing of a wide population do not appear to be its priority.

One of the major complaints I have relates to how the impact of the intrusive sound is measured. They rely on computer generated data. They base their conclusions on results averaged over extended periods of time rather than on the impacts of the numerous and jarring individual incidents. They diminish and even ignore the effects of afterburner use, something seldom heard in this region before the introduction of Growlers.

I sincerely hope you will make the time to visit us and confer with those here even more conversant with the issue than I am. They know of the environmental, medical, and economic consequences and have been struggling to bring greater awareness to the issue for quite a while.

Do you have any ideas regarding how the problem can be properly investigated and mitigations implemented? It is of extreme consequence to a large region of your state.

Sincerely,

Mac Langford  
Lopez island