

November, 2015

Dear Senator Cantwell -

Here in the San Juan Islands we have been suffering from the noise by low Prowler overflights and now from the much more extreme noise problem caused by the design, flight patterns and increasing numbers of **Growler** jets.

We have made every effort both as individuals and as a County government to let you know of our concerns over the past couple of YEARS.

Some of us have already received a form letter reply yet again from Senator Cantwell's office. It is the same form letter she has been sending since 2014.

It contains several mistakes such as:

1. An incorrect date for the Draft EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) which she says will be complete in the spring of 2015 instead of the correct date of Spring 2016 with a final Record of Decision in 2017. WE DON'T WANT TO WAIT UNTIL 2017 FOR GROWLER NOISE MITIGATION!
2. ANOTHER OMISSION OR MISUNDERSTANDING: Senator Cantwell states: "According to the Navy, a primary change in noise levels is due to the change in flight patterns necessary for training purposes." That would certainly be news to me. The Growlers still fly low and dirty over my house on the south end of Lopez Island.

No mention of the signature low frequency sound of the Growler which travels further and vibrates structures and bodies. There is no ignoring these overflights and when a number of them happen in succession, I actually start to feel physically ill and psychologically trapped.

Also, no mention of the afterburners (Prowlers didn't have them) that are used on EVERY takeoff - sending walls of noise throughout San Juan County.

"Run-ups" can emit an even higher level of noise over extended periods.

No mention that the sound measurements the Navy uses are all computer generated - not actual measurements - and they are all averaged over 365 days. So, from the Navy's perspective - we don't get any noise. Our own citizen dB measurements in our homes show noise levels well over any allowed in a work environment.

I HAVE A FEW QUESTIONS TO ASK:

1. Do you know of and support Representative Larsen's mitigation proposals?
 2. What are YOUR mitigation proposals?
 3. Are you willing to MEET with San Juan County councilman Jamie Stephens to discuss the Growler impacts to San Juan county and possible mitigations?
- I look forward to hearing from you and hope that we can work together to solve what has become the largest quality-of-life issue facing San Juan Islanders today.

Thank you for your time and your consideration of this important issue.

Barbara Keller
Lopez Island, WA 98261