

Honorable Senator Patty Murray
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

November 5, 2015

Dear Senator Murray:

My wife and I have owned our home on Lopez Island since 2008. A statement in the San Juan County Comprehensive Plan sums up our reasons for moving here - "the islands are places of peace ... We support a pattern of economic growth ... which recognizes the rural, residential, quiet, agricultural, marine and isolated nature of the islands."

The Growler entered operational service in late 2009. Our life has not been the same since. Contrary to statements in the Environmental Assessment, the Growler is not quieter than the Prowler it replaced (the Navy confirmed this in later documents). The Growler's low frequency rumble penetrates our home and is not only heard but felt in the body.

Last week I was helping a friend work on their barn 3 miles from our house. Hours of intense vibrations from Growler engine testing 12 miles away was comparable to what I've experienced kayaking between Lopez and Whidbey. Nobody should be subjected to that at their home.

I was pleased to see your December 4, 2014 letter to Admiral Greenert encouraging the Navy to include a hush house in the Growler EIS "as part of the evaluation of noise impacts." Citizens are living with this health hazard today. There is no reason to wait until completion of the EIS for 36 additional Growlers to begin mitigation. I ask that you put your full support behind the measures identified by Congressman Larsen in his December 2014 letter.

1. Reducing noise from engine testing by building a Hush House.
2. Reducing engine noise by adding chevrons which could muffle jet noise without sacrificing engine performance.
3. Reducing Future flights by using software which could reduce the amount of training pilots need before deploying to a carrier.
4. Expanded sound monitoring which would include adding sound measurements in San Juan County to the current Environmental Impact Statement.
5. Growler Schedule for Ault Field.
6. Improved use of data from the San Juan County jet noise website.

Please meet with San Juan County Commissioner Jamie Stephens to discuss the aural assault on our community. I would appreciate an update on the actions you have taken to advance mitigation measures.

Sincerely,

Brian Silverstein
Lopez Island, WA 98261