

## Mid-Atlantic Aviation Coalition

P. O. Box 673  
Long Valley, NJ. 07853

Ms. Carole Brennan, Town Clerk  
159 Pantigo Road  
East Hampton, New York. 11937

Via email: [cbrennan@EHamptonNY.Gov](mailto:cbrennan@EHamptonNY.Gov)

Dear Ms. Brennan:

Mid Atlantic Aviation Coalition was formed in 1988 to represent the interests of general aviation pilots in New Jersey and bordering states. Our principal work has been in supporting state and local investment in airport safety. We voice reasoned opposition to the groups and municipalities that seek to artificially restrict airport usage, thereby limiting the freedom and utility of personal flight.

We are very concerned about the proposed curtailment of flight operations at East Hampton Airport for many legal, practical and obvious reasons. We do not believe that action taken by the town to constrain the use of your airport for personal transportation has been considered with a full understanding of their ramifications.

It is our understanding that queries about the nature of aircraft noise complaints have demonstrated that 80% of the residents of East Hampton support keeping the airport open. An analysis of complaints about airport activity shows that more than 30% of the total complaints recorded in 2019 were generated by 10 households. The interests and rights of the majority of citizens should not be held hostage to the complaints of the relative few who, are unusually sensitive to the presence of aircraft. This is not an uncommon problem, yet virtually all airports confronted with a small, vocal group of objectors have found practical solutions well short of the draconian measures proposed by the town in connection with the East Hampton Airport.

An analysis of weather conditions over time shows that the busy season of aircraft use is about 25% of the entire year. Roughly 15 weekends per year have limited activity due to unfavorable weather.

We note that East Hampton Airport is a valuable component of the National Airspace System. It is a tremendous transportation resource for those individuals and companies that choose to make use of the convenience of the nation's airport system.

Moreover, your airport provides significant benefits to the community at large. East Hampton Airport supports local emergency management and provides a critical emergency service capability to the town and to the entire East End of Long Island.

The airport fosters interstate commerce and provides a measurably large economic benefit to East Hampton and nearby communities. The proposed restrictions on aircraft arriving or departing KHTD would be onerous to those individuals who choose to make use of the flexibility and convenience of modern air transportation.

We have observed that the local road infrastructure is wholly insufficient for the recreational weekend demand that the town has created for permanent and summer residents, visitors and workers. For many residents and visitors, the airport provides significant relief for this lack of surface transportation capability.

Technological change throughout the entire aerial transportation sector is constantly advancing. Within the next ten years, short-haul aircraft powered by virtually silent electric motors will be introduced. New aircraft designs will eliminate much of the noise that

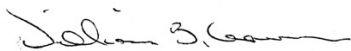
presently concerns some residents. By limiting access to the airport, you will be artificially constraining visitor and resident access in the future.

Steps taken by other airports in the Northeast – notably Teterboro, New Jersey – have properly addressed aircraft noise issues while permitting the airport to safely accommodate additional traffic. There are proven technical solutions that can be implemented to identify those individual aircraft that consistently exceed published noise standards. Non-compliant aircraft owners are warned and if violations continue, they are prohibited from using the airport. This is a practical means of addressing the concerns of complaining homeowners.

Morristown Airport in New Jersey was able to successfully address and rectify local helicopter noise complaints by working with aircraft operators. Working together, the airport community and the town petitioned the Federal Aviation Administration to change the published flight routes into and out of the airport. Helicopter noise complaints vanished almost overnight as pilots adopted new flight routing over uninhabited areas in the immediate airport vicinity.

We would be happy to speak with you and help identify practical means to satisfy local homeowner concerns while permitting the airport to continue serving the economic needs of East Hampton and the other communities of Eastern Long Island.

Yours truly,



William B. Leavens, Secretary

Cc: FAA New York Airports District Office, Evelyn Martinez, Manager  
FAA New York Airports District Office, Robert Costa, Assistant Manager  
FAA New York Airports District Office, Marie Jenet, Assistant Manager  
Hon. Kathy Hochul, Governor