



# MIKE BONIN

City of Los Angeles  
Councilmember, Eleventh District

December 16, 2016

Kevin C. Willis, Director  
Office of Airport Compliance and Management Analysis  
Federal Aviation Administration  
800 Independence Ave SW  
Washington DC 20591

**RE: FAA Cease and Desist Order to the City of Santa Monica**

Dear Mr. Willis:

I'd like to invite you down to Los Angeles, to take a stroll with me through what I'm convinced is one of the most beautiful neighborhoods in America. It's called North Westdale, and it's beautiful not because everything there is perfect rather because it's a vibrant community of families, young couples, senior citizens and others that care for each other and work hard to make this a great place to live. It might be perfect, in fact, if not for the idling jet that sits on the runway at Santa Monica Airport (SMO) a hundred feet away, spewing its toxic emissions directly into these homes.

When I first took that stroll down these neighborhood blocks surrounding SMO, I was struck by two things. The first is how incredibly close these jets are to homes. Being the Los Angeles City Councilmember that also represents Los Angeles International Airport (LAX), I am well aware of the FAA's close watch over unwarranted incursions into the areas immediately east and west of those runways that should be kept clear for safety reasons. I not only respect it, but I've also supported the efforts of airport officials to keep that area clear. So it boggles my mind that, even as it guards the Runway Protection Zone at LAX, FAA continues to allow Santa Monica Airport to operate outside of even this most basic of safety requirements, literally allowing jet operations a hundred feet away from residential buildings.

The second thing that struck me on my walk through the neighborhood is how much this airport impacts the daily lives of the residents there. When children play outside, it can only be for a short period of time, and not during the hot summer months when the choking pollution makes it impossible to enjoy more than a few minutes of our amazing California sun. It's common practice in this neighborhood to close all your windows, and completely shut yourself off from the outside on the worst pollution days. We often talk of airport impacts in terms of numbers and cold, hard facts, but you won't understand what any of that means until you take this walk with me down what will look to you like an empty and abandoned neighborhood until you realize that the families are very much there, it's just that they've retreated into their homes to seek shelter from the jet fumes.

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I began writing this letter to communicate my outrage and condemn FAA's recent interim cease and desist order to the City of Santa Monica, and to express my anger and disappointment over what seems to be your agency's relentless effort to disenfranchise the voters of Santa Monica and bring pollution and noise as close as you can to the people I represent in Venice and West Los Angeles. But it occurred to me that you may just not know what you're doing.

It occurred to me that you may not understand how many lives you're impacting here around SMO. How many families change their daily routine to accommodate the idling jet, which in turn is changing it's own routine and holding on the tarmac to accommodate an even larger jet taking off miles away at LAX. It occurred to me that you, actually, may not know that there are homes a hundred feet away from the end of this runway, directly in the path of any jet that might be coming in for an emergency landing. Your job is to keep people safe, and you may not realize that you're not doing your job well here at SMO.

So I invite you down to Los Angeles to see for yourself why the voters of Santa Monica saw fit to issue their elected representatives clear direction to manage and limit airport uses at SMO, and why those of us that represent the residents surrounding this airport in Congress, at the state legislature, city councils, and every level of government are speaking with one voice to urge you to allow this City to determine its own future for its airport. I invite you to come hear why we so strongly support Santa Monica's efforts to implement the will of its voters under Measure LC, including the recently adopted Airport Leasing and Licensing Policy, action to evict the existing Fixed Based Operators (FBO), and exercise of its right right to establish its own City operated FBO service.

Come see for yourself. Understand the consequences of the orders you issue from Washington, D.C. Listen to the stories of those that live with this airport every day, and then rescind your cease and desist order.

Regards,



**MIKE BONIN**

*Councilmember, 11th District*

cc: Congressman Ted W. Lieu, United States House of Representatives, 33rd District of California  
Joey Apodaca, Congressman Ted W. Lieu's Office, United States House of Representatives  
Glen A. Martin, Western-Pacific Regional Administrator, Federal Aviation Administration

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