

## CITY OF CHERRY HILLS VILLAGE

2450 E. Quincy Avenue  
Cherry Hills Village, CO 80113  
[www.cherryhillsvillage.com](http://www.cherryhillsvillage.com)

Village Center  
Telephone 303-789-2541  
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September 28, 2018

Mr. Zachery Michael  
Associate Director  
Office of Intergovernmental Affairs  
White House  
Washington D.C. 20502

Re: FAA

Dear Zachery:

It was great speaking to you about the invitation to the White House for breakfast. I am sorry that I could not attend but glad to hear that the event went well. Continuing with our discussion and your kind offer to assist with governmental matters that affect our community, I am taking you up on that offer.

As I mentioned, several communities that lie south of Denver have had great difficulty communicating with the FAA with regard to the implementation of the NextGen Metroplex program. Denver International Airport (DIA) is unique in that it was built in 1995 in the middle of the plains, several miles east of Denver. Its location was selected to avoid subjecting existing residential communities to extensive and persistent aviation noise. If you have flown into Denver you will note that the planes circle out onto the plains prior to landing. Unfortunately the FAA desires to abandon these flight paths in favor of bringing large commercial airlines directly over residential neighborhoods which lie to the west of DIA. These neighborhoods have never been subjected to extensive aviation noise in the past. The new flight paths will be narrow with as many as one commercial flight per minute.

Let me tell you a little bit about our community. Cherry Hills Village is an established semi-rural town that lies immediately south of Denver. It encompasses schools, residences, parks and historic sites including two private golf courses. One of the clubs is a legacy golf club founded in 1922 that has hosted many major tournaments over the years including the U.S. Open (three times), the PGA Championship and most recently the BMW Championship.

The noise pollution level deemed tolerable by the FAA under NextGen Metroplex is 65 decibels; however that standard is a measurement which is taken indoors with windows closed. Ours is an outdoor community with hikers, equestrians and golfers. Hundreds of commercial jets flying low overhead each day will be as intolerable here as it has been in the many cities that

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are currently litigating with the FAA. Furthermore, it is a betrayal of the bargain that the City and County of Denver struck with the surrounding communities when it built DIA.

This is a nonpartisan issue impacting not only our community but many others including the general aviation community. Centennial Airport is the second busiest general aviation airport in the United States. Centennial Airport has serious concerns regarding the safety of its planes if Nextgen Metroplex were implemented, which it has outlined to the FAA with no meaningful response. Senator Cory Gardner has also corresponded with the FAA on behalf of our region. In the midst of litigation with other cities, the FAA continues to provide platitudes to those of us who would prefer to avoid unnecessary litigation.

I would be very grateful if you could have the FAA address our concerns and commence discussions that honor the bargain struck by Denver with surrounding communities to assure that DIA would be a first class international airport while at the same time protecting the safety and quiet of communities that existed decades before its construction.

I am looking forward to your response and once again thank you for offering to help us in this endeavor to facilitate meaningful communication with the FAA.

Yours Respectfully,



Laura Jean Christman  
Mayor  
City of Cherry Hills Village

Cc Senator Cory Gardner  
Senator Michael Bennett  
Representative Dianna DeGette  
Mayor Michael Hancock  
Metro Mayors Caucus  
Noise Roundtable  
Robert Olislagers, Centennial Airport