

NLC RESOLUTION #48

**REDUCE THE ECONOMIC, NOISE AND HEALTH IMPACTS OF OVERFLIGHTS ON CITIES FROM IMPLEMENTATION OF NEXTGEN'S AIRSPACE REDESIGN**

**WHEREAS**, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is implementing both a National Airspace Redesign—a multi-year initiative to review, redesign, and restructure the nation's airspace to meet the rapidly changing and increasing demands on the National Airspace System — and an Air Traffic Control System upgrade named “NextGen;” and

**WHEREAS**, Congress directed the FAA administrator to exercise leadership in the creation of federal and international policies, regulations, and standards relating to the certification and safe and efficient operation of civil supersonic aircraft in the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018, leading to new rulemakings on FAA noise certification; and

**WHEREAS**, the NextGen System allows for aircraft to fly more closely together, both vertically and horizontally, during landing and takeoff, which has concentrated flight paths at low altitudes over residential areas of the U.S. with increased frequency; and

**WHEREAS**, in some states, the FAA did not conduct Environmental Impact Studies that use a noise standard that accurately reflects the impact of NextGen routing over residential communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Noise Control Act and the Clean Air Act Title IV - Noise Pollution indicate that aircraft and turbojet engines are a source of noise and air pollution that require mitigation; and

**WHEREAS**, problems related to noise include stress-related illnesses, high blood pressure, speech interference, hearing loss, sleep disruption, and lost productivity; and

**WHEREAS**, frequent low flying aircraft increases risk on the ground and also adversely impacts economic development, property values, and the quality of life of residents;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the National League of Cities urges Congress and the FAA to reduce the economic, noise and health impacts of the implementation of NextGen's Airspace Redesign and protect the public against NextGen-related impacts; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that requests that the FAA ensure that communities noise concerns are considered in supersonic jets rulemaking with preference for being at Stage 5 noise levels when they are at subsonic speeds; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC supports FAA's goals of aircraft safety and security, and the full funding and implementation of the FAA Reauthorization Act, which includes the following major provision, among others:

- Immediate utilization of alternative single-event noise metrics, which are better suited to analyzing noise impacts over affected communities; and

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- Acceleration of funding to NASA for research and development to address aviation noise, at its source—aircraft engines and airframes; and
  - Continued vigilance to ensure that Congress and FAA take additional steps to reduce aircraft noise and enhance the quality of life for residents and citizens affected by overflights.