

# **HR 5109: Fairness in Airspace Includes Residents (FAIR) Act of 2019**

*Co-Leads for the F-AIR Act: Speier, Eshoo, Panetta*

The (F)AIR Act would amend US Code 49, §40103 to maintain safety as the first priority of the FAA in managing US airspace, while adding as co-equal and secondary priorities the efficient use of the airspace, the reduction of noise and health impacts in the community, and the reduction of other environmental impacts of aviation.

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- Congress has authorized the FAA to manage US airspace. The primary criteria given to the FAA is and should always be safety. The other existing and significant criteria given to the FAA in managing the U.S. airspace is efficiency.
  - This bill would add as secondary and co-equal priorities the efficient use of airspace, the reduction of noise and health impacts in a community, and the reduction of other environmental impacts of aviation.
  - While there are many effective opportunities to develop efficient NextGen flight paths, there is a law of diminishing returns and moving a flight path a mile or two may do very little to enhance overall airspace efficiency but can destroy the peace of neighborhoods and communities impacted by new flight paths. The relentless and oppressive noise impact of “efficient” NextGen flight procedures on many communities is the case in point for efficiency run amok.
  - While FAA procedures may sometimes include a review of noise or environmental impacts, these subordinate factors are often quickly shoved aside in the interests of efficiency.
  - The modification of airspace priorities would not in any way affect the FAA’s ability to maintain the safest airspace in the world. It would, however, recognize that people live, sleep, and breathe beneath flight paths – and that efficiency must be blended with their needs.
  - The F-AIR Act requires the FAA to revise its current Mission Statement\* to incorporate the re-alignment of these modified airspace priorities to acknowledge the importance of environmental, noise and health concerns to residents directly impacted by flight procedures, and the importance of these priorities as well to the wider population of the nation.
  - The FAA’s current Mission Statement:

**Our Mission:** Our continuing mission is to provide the safest, most efficient aerospace system in the world.

**Our Vision:** We strive to reach the next level of safety and efficiency and to demonstrate global leadership in how we safely integrate new users and technologies into our aviation system. We are accountable to the American public and our aviation stakeholders.

**Our Values:**

- Safety is our passion. We work so all air and space travelers arrive safely at their destinations.
- Excellence is our promise. We seek results that embody professionalism, transparency and accountability.
- Integrity is our touchstone. We perform our duties honestly, with moral soundness, and with the highest level of ethics.
- People are our strength. Our success depends on the respect, diversity, collaboration, and commitment of our workforce.
- Innovation is our signature. We foster creativity and vision to provide solutions beyond today's boundaries.