



ANNEMARIE FAGAN
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF MILTON
OFFICE OF SELECTMEN

525 CANTON AVENUE, MILTON, MA 02186

TEL 617-898-4843

FAX 617-698-6741

SELECTMEN

KATHLEEN M. CONLON
CHAIRMAN

DAVID T. BURNES
SECRETARY

J. THOMAS HURLEY
MEMBER

September 27, 2016

Mr. David Barger
Chief Executive Officer
JetBlue
27-01 Queens Plaza North
Long Island City, NY 11101

Re: Airbus A320 Aircraft/Vortex Generators

Dear Mr. Barger:

We are writing to you because yours is one of the many airlines operating pre-2014 Airbus A320 series aircraft within the United States.

As you may know, the Airbus A320 series, which includes all Airbus aircraft versions from the A318 to the A321, has a known design flaw that increases the amount of noise the aircraft generates, while creating a signature irritating, high-pitched tone as air flows over vent openings on the underside of the aircraft's wings upon descent. This noise, both in volume and in tone, has been unnecessarily plaguing airport communities from Los Angeles, to Chicago, to Boston, and it needs to stop.

In study after study, repeated exposure to aircraft noise has been shown to have a negative effect on people on the ground by disrupting everything from sleep to everyday life. In addition to the overall health and work performance impairments caused by inadequate sleep, continued exposure to airplane noise has been linked to high blood pressure and heart problems in adults (including premature death from heart disease), as well as reading comprehension and long-term memory problems in children. These issues are of particular interest and concern here in Milton, Massachusetts where our 27,000 residents – many of whom are your passengers – are exposed to nearly 35% of the 158,000 jet arrivals that Boston's Logan Airport sees annually.

Recognizing the negative health impact that noisy aircraft have on people on the ground, as well as on the airlines that operate them, Airbus created a simple device called a "vortex generator" that can be installed in front of the vent holes.

David Barger
September 27, 2016
Page Two


These small, triangular devices re-route the airflow and reportedly eliminate the high-pitched tone caused by the airframe while reducing overall noise by up to 50%. And, according to Airbus, these devices add a mere 5.2 ounces in weight to the aircraft and are held in place using two of the existing bolts that surround the vent.

Vortex generators have been standard equipment on the A320 series since early 2014, and leading airlines including Air France, British Airways, Condor, easyJet, and Lufthansa either have retrofitted or are retrofitting their A320 series aircraft with these devices to reduce noise on a voluntary basis to improve conditions for people living near airports. In fact, Lufthansa devotes a portion of its website to the topic of noise reduction, stating that is it "setting standards in its active approach to noise abatement".


Given the known negative impacts of airplane noise on people on the ground, that vortex generators are standard equipment on new A320s, and that many of your peer airlines are currently retrofitting their A320 fleets, we ask that you put a plan in place to retrofit your A320 series aircraft with vortex generators, and communicate your plan to the public, as soon as possible to minimize the effect that aircraft operations have on people underneath the flightpaths.

Sincerely,

Milton Board of Selectmen


Kathleen M. Conlon, Chair


David T. Burnes, Secretary


J. Thomas Hurley, Member

David Barger
September 27, 2016
Page Three

cc: Governor Charlie Baker
U.S. Senator Edward J. Markey
U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren
Congressman Stephen F. Lynch
Congressman Michael E. Capuano
State Senator Brian A. Joyce
State Representative Walter F. Timilty
State Representative Daniel R. Cullinane
Amy Lind Corbett, Federal Aviation Authority
Thomas Glynn, Massachusetts Port Authority
Town Administrator Annemarie Fagan
Cindy L. Christiansen, Ph.D., Massport and Logan CAC Representative
Mr. Andrew Schmidt
Milton Airplane Noise Advisory Committee
Milton Board of Health
John P. Flynn, Esq., Milton Town Counsel
Karis L. North, Esq.