

To Whom It May Concern:

This comment is submitted regarding a supplemental notice of proposed rulemaking to establish noise efficiency limitations for certain aircraft operations at Grand Canyon National Park.

The proposed rule to establish noise efficiency limitations for certain aircraft operations at Grand Canyon National Park is a necessary measure. It proposes standards for quiet technology that are reasonably achievable, as mandated by Congress. Natural quiet, naturally occurring, non-mechanized sounds found in the park, is important for the experiences of all visitors to our national parks. The sound of the streams, wind, and wildlife are an essential part of every guest's visit at the Grand Canyon. Implementation of the 1987 National Park Overflights Act, in which Congress directed the FAA and the National Park Service to restore natural quiet in the Grand Canyon by reducing noise from low-flying aircraft, is served by the proposed rule. Since the passage of the Act almost 16 years ago, park visitors have still not been afforded the opportunity to enjoy the Grand Canyon's natural serenity in at least fifty percent of the Grand Canyon seventy-five percent of the time.

The U.S. Circuit Court for the District of Columbia, in *Grand Canyon Trust v. FAA*, recently declared that faulty measure of natural-quiet restoration was in place, and that Park Service standards for measuring progress toward the restoration of natural quiet to guarantee park visitors can find areas where natural quiet is continuously available specifically stating that the current methodology was is faulty. 298 F.3d 997, 1018 (C.A.D.C. 2002). The Court was clear that the FAA must consider the cumulative impacts of all aircraft noise over the Grand Canyon when formulating new flight rules for air tours, specifically including air tours in the noise making analysis because the previous methodology was arbitrary and capricious. *Grand Canyon Trust*, 298 F.3d at 1019. Redirecting routes of commercial air tours in sensitive areas will keep the noise pollution from getting worse.

This comment is submitted in with hopes that the proposed regulation will keep with the Congressional intent to limit noise in the Grand Canyon, and follow the guidelines of *Grand Canyon Trust v. FAA* in order to achieve a more peaceful visit to the Grand Canyon with a minimum of disturbing noise. The FAA currently has the tools available for enacting such regulation and the current proposed rule is applauded.

Sincerely,
Richard A. Drezek