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OFFICE OF LAW

September 18, 2018

Gary W. Kuc
Howard County Office of Law
3450 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 20591

Re: Howard County Administrative Petition Regarding Baltimore/Washington
International Thurgood Marshall Airport

Dear Mr. Kuc:

I am writing in response to the administrative petition dated July 18, 2018, that Howard County submitted to Acting Administrator Dan Elwell.

We have read the administrative petition and concluded that no formal right exists in the applicable statutes, regulations, or guidance to "petition" the Acting Administrator as Howard County has done. We also note that the FAA's actions with respect to the DC Metroplex and the identified procedures at BWI are fully implemented and were complete years ago. There is currently no major federal action associated with these actions.

Accordingly, the FAA declines to respond to Howard County's administrative petition. This letter does not constitute final agency action, nor should it be construed as a reopening of prior agency actions. However, as you may know, on July 25, 2018, the FAA agreed to reengage with the DC Metroplex BWI Community Roundtable but limited its involvement to issues outside the scope of the administrative petitions filed by Maryland and Howard County. If Howard County will withdraw its administrative petition, we are prepared to consider all recommendations from the roundtable addressing noise concerns at BWI. We believe that the roundtable is the proper forum to address the county's noise concerns from departing and arriving aircraft at BWI.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James A. Lofton".

James A. Lofton

Assistant Chief Counsel for Airports & Environmental Law