

STATEMENT OF
REP. THOMAS E. PETRI, RANKING MEMBER
SUBCOMMITTEE ON AVIATION
HEARING ON

Aviation and the Environment: Noise

October 24, 2007, 11:00 a.m., 2167 RHOB

I'd like to thank the Chairman for calling this important hearing today.

Aviation is essential to our healthy economy and the free flow of travel and commerce.

This subcommittee has looked at the environmental impacts of aviation, including noise, many times before. We have heard from Members of Congress and the communities they represent.

We have also sought to reduce and mitigate noise impacts through legislation.

Additionally, the FAA has issued regulations and conducted research and development efforts along with NASA.

Due to these efforts, tremendous gains have been made.

The broader population can now afford air travel. In fact, commercial and regional carrier revenue passenger miles have grown more than 93 percent since just 1990.

But, as evidenced by this hearing today, noise problems continue to exist.

I look forward to hearing the testimony of today's witnesses. The FAA and GAO will summarize the overall aviation noise picture and share their thoughts on next steps and challenges ahead.

I understand that for aircraft of the “70 to 150 passenger size,” the Pratt & Whitney Geared Turbofan engine will reduce cumulative noise levels by about 20 decibels below current Stage 4 regulations. That is remarkable and I look forward to hearing more about the benefits of this new technology.

One thing has become very clear to me; aviation noise is a complicated issue requiring a complex and multi-pronged solution.