

House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee – Member Day, January 14, 2026 – 10:00AM
Remarks – Rep. Lois Frankel

Thank you, Chairman Graves and Ranking Member Larson.

I'm here today to bring attention to a serious local problem affecting my community in Palm Beach County, Florida, and I'm asking for this Committee's assistance in working with the FAA to address it.

On October 20, at the request of the U.S. Secret Service, the FAA implemented a year-round, 24-hour, one-nautical-mile no-fly zone around Mar-a-Lago—regardless of whether the President is physically present. To accommodate that decision, the FAA rerouted flight paths into and out of Palm Beach International Airport, shifting aircraft over neighborhoods that had previously not been impacted.

This represents a sharp departure from how airspace around Palm Beach County has been managed for decades. The previous flight routes were established after an environmental review and noise-reducing measures that minimized the impact to approximately 2,200 homes and 5,000 people, which was far fewer than under the new restrictions today.

Under the new, year-round restrictions, more than 11,000 homes and over 21,000 residents, along with schools and businesses, are now directly impacted. Planes are flying overhead as frequently as every 90 seconds.

Residents are reporting constant noise, increased air pollution, declining property values, and growing concerns about delays and flight safety at Palm Beach International Airport. In just a short period of time, the county airport has received hundreds of complaints.

In Florida, people live their lives outdoors. Because these restrictions are now in place year-round, thousands of residents are living with disruption every single day.

We know that protecting the President is essential. No one disputes that. The question is, do security and quality of life have to be mutually exclusive?

The Secret Service makes security requests, and the FAA determines how airspace is managed. My community is hoping that there is room to explore alternatives that maintain strong security while reducing the impact on surrounding communities.

I have requested direct engagement with the FAA, the Secret Service, airport leadership, local officials, and persons in affected neighborhoods and businesses. I am asking this Committee to help expedite those conversations and encourage the FAA to work with us toward a fair and reasonable solution.

If nothing else, the community deserves to know that their voices have been heard and all viable alternatives have been considered.

Thank you, and I yield back.