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Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure 2023 Member Day Hearing Testimony

Chairman Graves and Ranking Member Larson, I rise today to applaud the historic investments in the future of our nation's transportation and infrastructure systems that Congress helped passed through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. I look forward to helping facilitate a thorough— and equitable— implementation of the Bipartisan *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* and I urge us to continue to build on these historic investments. As these funds go out, we should insist on prevailing wages, the use of local labor, and project labor agreements to ensure that the work is done well and workers are properly compensated.

Throughout the state of California and across the country, critical investments in our transportation and infrastructure are creating pathways for safer and more efficient travel, high-paying union jobs, a cleaner and greener future, and long-term economic growth and stability. As we preserve, repair, and rebuild American roads and bridges, airports, and water systems, we must also expand on them with the creation of pedestrian safety enhancements and bike lanes, expanded electric vehicle charging systems, programs to provide access to clean water, access to airport funding, and opportunities for more efficient and greener bus transit, public rail, and high-speed rail systems.

As this Committee considers its legislative priorities for this Congress, including Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Reauthorization, I ask that you prioritize addressing issues that Californians face every day. Like many communities, my constituents live with a disruptive amount of aviation noise, which has steadily increased in recent years. My district is home to some of the most unique cultural and entertainment sites in Southern California, as well as the Hollywood Burbank Airport. I have been committed to community-led efforts to mitigate disruptive airplane and helicopter noise for communities living along flight paths near these attractions. My colleagues and I have extensively studied these issues and have diligently listened to community input. Communities have asked for the FAA to establish and sustain effective methods to measure, track, and investigate aircraft noise, aircraft noise complaints, and the environmental impact of aircraft noise and noise pollution. And to take meaningful action to address it.

Many residents who live near Hollywood Burbank Airport, and other airports across the state, continue to experience disruptive noise from flights, particularly at night. I continue to ask Congress to authorize the FAA to lead community roundtables to address noise issues and urge this body to implement accountability measures for communities who have been overlooked by

the FAA. Additionally, I support a mandatory nighttime curfew for Hollywood Burbank Airport so that Burbank and Los Angeles residents can sleep peacefully.

I urge the Committee to reauthorize FAA funding for noise complaint systems and improve its mechanisms. Furthermore, frequent helicopter noise is a burden for many Angelenos. I urge this body to include provisions to regulate helicopter traffic over residential neighborhoods and ensure that helicopter noise and traffic are taken into consideration in any efforts for aviation noise mitigation.

I support a robust FAA Reauthorization bill that will benefit the Hollywood Burbank Airport, the Burbank-Glendale-Pasadena Airport Authority, airport workers, local anti-noise coalitions and activists, and all constituents in my district, including increased modernization funding for both large and regional airports. I support policies that will encourage pilot, passenger, and aviation crew safety—including secondary barriers on commercial aircraft and other safety measures to protect pilots and in-flight aircraft crew. I support strengthening consumer protections and holding airlines accountable for mass flight cancellations, shrinking airline seat sizes, and junk fees—and I support ensuring that flying is more accessible for underserved communities and people with disabilities. Lastly, I support innovative and equitable solutions to our workforce shortage, including programming and funding to expand and diversify the pipeline for aviation professionals and strengthening labor standards and pay for industry workers.

These investments will not only improve Californians' quality of life but will also keep America competitive in the global economy. I look forward to continuing to work to facilitate the transition to a cleaner transportation and infrastructure sector for years to come. I applaud the Committee's efforts to produce a strong, bipartisan FAA Reauthorization bill and hope we can pass this crucial legislation in a timely matter to help families, workers, and communities across the nation.