

Governor Kate Brown

Office of the Governor

900 Court Street NE, Suite 254

Salem, OR 97301-4047

Oct. 16, 2019

Dear Governor Brown,

The Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods (NECN) requests your assistance in finding a resolution for the noise nuisance created by the Oregon Air National Guard Overhead landing pattern, which is currently impacting the livability, health and well-being of residents in the East Columbia, Cully, Woodlawn and adjacent residential neighborhoods in Washington. These are some Portland’s most diverse neighborhoods which means that communities of color and lower-income residents are disproportionately impacted by the noise and stress created by the landing pattern.

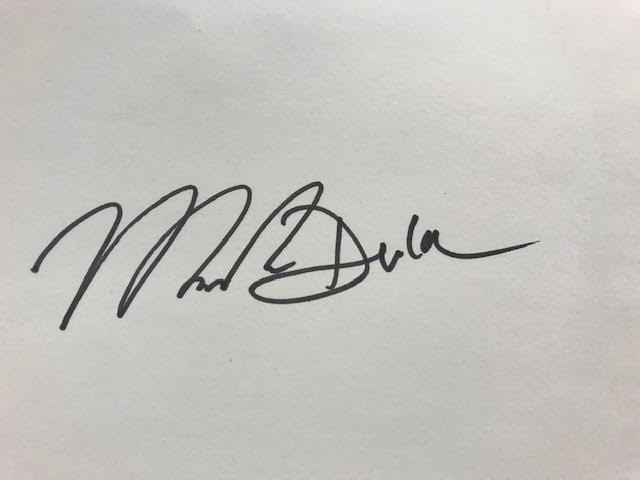
NECN is coalition of 12 neighborhoods representing more than 60,000 residents in northeast Portland, including Woodlawn. We have been working to engage neighbors in advocacy and action on livability and governance issues since 1974. Though East Columbia Neighborhood and Cully are not NECN member neighborhoods, we support their efforts because it aligns with our values of furthering livability and equity in Portland.

Neighbors in these areas recognize that they live near an airport and accept that there will be some noise from commercial air traffic. However, the Overhead Continuous Descent Approach is not standard airport noise. This maneuver involves an expedited low-flying landing with jet noise measured near the break point of 74 decibels, which according to the CDC is in a range that can “cause moderate to severe hearing damage.”

We ask that you address this swiftly by instructing ORANG to work with the East Columbia and Cully Neighborhood Associations to find a solution that moves or restricts the loud, invasive landing practice that creates stress, disruption and potentially endangers health of residents due to noise and vibrations.

We believe no neighborhood should have to bear the burden of excessive and extraordinary noise pollution, when this nuisance could be avoided or dramatically reduced. NECN is actively seeking the support of the other five neighborhood coalitions in Portland on this issue to demonstrate our commitment to livability and equity for all Portlanders.

Sincerely,



Mariah Dula, Chair

Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods