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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

July 12, 2019

Andrew Wheeler
Secretary
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Secretary Wheeler,

I write today regarding the Mercer County Firing Range located in Hopewell Township, New Jersey. This range is located immediately across the Delaware River from Upper Makefield Township. Upper Makefield resides in my district, and the noise pollution from this range is directly impacting my constituents.

This issue was brought to my attention by local residents and elected officials who are exposed to the noise on an almost daily basis at all hours of the day. Based on the video footage and documentation provided to our office, the level of noise frequently exceeds local established abatement limits.

Currently, the range is utilized by local, county, and state police. The range itself consists of 24 firing lanes that face away from Upper Makefield and into a quarry. Due to its proximity to the Delaware River, the sound of gunshots is amplified for these Pennsylvania residents. This facility severely impacts residents, visitors and school children who visit Washington Crossing State Park, and it has become a hinderance to my constituents.

It is to my understanding that there was no impact study to determine how this would affect the surrounding areas. Noise pollution is said to cause detrimental health effects such as hypertension, heightened stress levels, tinnitus, hearing loss, and sleep disturbances. When establishing a firing range in proximity to a residential area, decibel levels of the noise generated should be analyzed or noise mitigation structures need to be put in place.

Given the potential safety risk this imposes on the residents of Pennsylvania, I urge you to give full and fair consideration to the concerns of the residents of Upper Makefield to investigate the matter.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to my office at 215-579-8102 if my office can be of any further assistance in this matter

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian K. Fitzpatrick".

Brian K. Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress