I have read with great interest the letter from Representative Kilmer calling for a new study of military jet noise over Olympic National Park [1]. He urged the National Park Service (NPS) to collect new noise samples and data for the Federal Interagency Committee on Aviation Noise (FICAN) as follows:

- The Department of Defense to provide existing noise modeling data.

- The Department of Interior to collect real noise samples and data.

- FICAN to examine noise data collected by federal agencies and determine what additional tests on the Peninsula are needed, review methods for studying noise in wilderness areas, and identify best practices for measuring noise in areas like national forests.

I have similar concerns regarding National Park units in our Congressional District including San Juan Island National Park and Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve. Having actual sound measurements is important because the Environmental Impact Statement being prepared by the Navy for the proposed addition of up to 36 more EA-18G Growlers relies on computer simulations of noise levels. I believe these simulations do not accurately reflect the noise impacts on our national treasures. Actual measurements will help resolve this issue. Measurements will also establish a baseline for comparison after the Navy implements actions in the Record of Decision.

The study should incorporate supplemental noise measurements including Sound Exposure Level (SEL) and Peak Sound Level (Lmax). Document the projected annual number of events that exceed 60 dB SEL and Lmax in 5dB increments. In addition the study should capture the low frequency component of Growler noise using either C-weighted or unweighted measurements.

The noise study should also cover the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) National Monuments on Lopez Island, another sensitive area. Requesting cooperation between NPS and BLM is an opportunity to leverage the requested study on the Olympic Peninsula, gathering noise data in a cost-effective manner.

Please request that the study begin immediately so the information is available before the Navy Draft Environmental Impact Statement is released in the Spring of 2016.

I thank you in advance for your support in expanding the noise study to cover impacted areas in San Juan and Island Counties. **Please respond indicating your willingness to support this study.**

[1]: <http://kilmer.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/kilmer-calls-for-new-study-of-jet-noise-over-olympic-national-park>