

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 2, 2014

Admiral Jonathan Greenert
Office of the Chief of Naval Operations
2000 Navy Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20350-2000

Dear Admiral Greenert,

We write to urge you to consider recommending funding to construct an acoustic mitigation hangar, known as a 'hush house,' at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island (NASWI) as a part of the Navy's Fiscal Year 2016 budget submission.

NASWI does not have a hush house, which means engine operation for maintenance or testing must be conducted in the open. We appreciate the Navy's efforts to make these operations minimally invasive to Island and San Juan counties. However, we still hear from constituents who are disturbed by the noise. A hush house would allow noise from the most disruptive engine maintenance to be muffled and directed upward and away from local communities. We further encourage you to include a hush house in the Environmental Impact Statement for EA-18G Growlers Airfield Operations at NASWI as part of the evaluation of noise impacts and other areas of the study.

Sailors at NASWI are performing the dangerous mission of protecting our country, and the Navy is a valued member of the local community. Indeed, many of those who serve at NASWI choose to retire to the area. We believe adding a hush house to Ault Field would augment the existing positive partnership by enhancing readiness while reducing noise impacts.

We look forward to working with you on enhancing Naval Air Station Whidbey Island and thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Patty Murray
United States Senator



Rick Larsen
Member of Congress

CC: Dennis V. McGinn, Assistant Secretary of the Navy—Energy, Installations & Environment