

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 18, 2024

Chair Amanda Fariás  
New York City Council  
Committee on Economic Development  
250 Broadway  
New York, New York

Dear Chair Fariás & Members of the Committee on Economic Development:

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony as you consider a number of consequential bills to address the problem of non-essential helicopters in New York City and the myriad issues they cause. This is of particular importance to me as my constituents, in both Manhattan and Brooklyn, are affected by the more than 40,000 non-essential helicopter flights originating from the East 34th Street and Downtown Manhattan Heliport.

As I'm sure you know, non-essential helicopter flights are a blight on quality of life for our communities on the waterfront. They cause significant pollution and generate excessive noise that harms the health, wellbeing, and sanity of my constituents. These problems have only gotten worse in recent years.

Each non-essential helicopter flight produces 43 times the amount of carbon dioxide per hour than the average car. The leaded fuel that many of these helicopters use spews harmful particles into our communities, adding to the already poor air quality over New York City. Further still, between 2017 and 2022, noise complaints regarding helicopters in NYC increased by more than 2,300 percent. This is simply unacceptable.

I am encouraged by the set of bills being considered today, which, together, present a comprehensive answer to these issues. For years, New Yorkers have been subjected to unacceptable levels of noise pollution, depleting air-quality, increasing asthma rates and other health consequences due to the thousands of non-essential helicopter flights traveling over Manhattan. I will continue to do what I can at the federal level to protect my constituents from these harms while supporting, in the strongest terms, local legislation that will put an end to these dangerous and disruptive flights.

Sincerely,



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Dan Goldman  
Member of Congress