

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 4, 2020

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Chairman
Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure

The Honorable Sam Graves
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure

The Honorable Rick Larsen
Chairman
Subcommittee on Aviation

The Honorable Garret Graves
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Aviation

Dear Chairmen and Ranking Members:

We respectfully request the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure convene a formal congressional hearing to require the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to provide the detailed information we requested on the recent fuel dump by a Delta passenger carrier over our districts.

On January 14, 2020, Delta Airlines Flight 89 (Flight 89) dumped approximately 85,000 pounds of jet fuel on the largely minority communities in our congressional districts while on approach to make an emergency landing at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX). Flight 89 approached LAX at low altitude while dumping fuel. As a result, the fuel that it dumped did not atomize before it reached the ground.

Constituents, including school children, teachers, and others in our districts who were outside at the time of the fuel dump, were exposed to the jet fuel as it rained down from the sky. Those exposed exhibited symptoms of exposure to jet fuel, including skin irritation, eye irritation, and respiratory distress. To say that this experience was traumatic, especially for these children in our districts, is an understatement.

On January 22, 2020, we wrote a letter to FAA Administrator Steve Dickson seeking immediate and comprehensive responses regarding federal regulations governing fuel dumps, FAA's timeline for the investigation into the dumped fuel, and specific information about the chemical composition of the dumped fuel and its health risks.

On March 2, 2020, FAA Deputy Administrator Daniel K. Elwell responded to our letter. His response lacked the specific information and details we requested, and it failed to provide the answers our communities have demanded. In addition, the response letter does not clarify whether the FAA investigation is complete.

We are outraged by FAA's response. Those impacted by the fuel dump have a right to have their concerns honestly and thoroughly addressed. Furthermore, as Members of Congress, we are

entitled to responsive dialogue with the executive branch in order to execute our constitutionally mandated oversight role.

We understand and appreciate the potential need for preventative measures, including fuel-dumping, during aviation emergencies such as occurred on January 14, 2020 at LAX. However, we are deeply troubled by FAA's lack of transparency and responsiveness to the concerns raised by the impacted communities nearly six weeks following the incident.

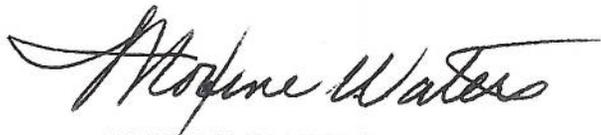
Given the unanswered questions about the investigation, and given the chemical composition of the dumped fuel and its health impact, especially on the children, we request the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure convene a formal congressional hearing on the January 14, 2020 Flight 89 fuel dump over populated portions of Los Angeles. We also request that you require FAA to respond in a comprehensive and thorough manner to the questions we posed in our January 22 letter, including the complete results of the investigation.

We appreciate your consideration of our request and look forward to working on this serious and critical issue with you.

Sincerely,



LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD
Member of Congress



MAXINE WATERS
Member of Congress



LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ
Member of Congress



NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGÁN
Member of Congress