

**SCOTT A. RUSSELL**  
SUPERVISOR



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**OFFICE OF THE SUPERVISOR**  
TOWN OF SOUTHOLD

November 18, 2020

Supervisor Peter Van Scoyoc  
159 Pantigo Road  
East Hampton, New York 11937

Dear Supervisor Van Scoyoc:

Historically Southold Town has received a very high percentage of the inbound and outbound helicopter traffic to KHTO. After 12 years of Southold Town residents filing noise complaints, the helicopter industry changed the flightpaths to "over water routes", weather permitting. This past summer of 2020 saw two big changes: overall operations were down significantly due to COVID and surprisingly a significant amount of helicopter flight operations were shifted to fly along the Atlantic/South Shore Route. That said there were still plenty of daily flights along the North Shore Route and residents continued to complain about the disruptive noise. Impacted Southold Town communities are extremely concerned that a post pandemic world there will be a massive volume of repeated, round trip daily helicopter operations.

Southold Town sees the new "over water" (North shore) route as nothing more than a noise shift from inland residents to Long Island Sound facing residents. Residents have noted that a one mile offshore buffer and a 2,500 minimum altitude recommendation do little to abate twin engine helicopter noise. Senator Schumer's proposed legislation from this past summer referred to pilots flying "East of Plum Island." While this may offer minor relief to some, there are many more steps required to truly abate helicopter noise for Southold Town communities. First off the South Shore Route needs to be fully utilized as the primary route. When pilots must fly the North Shore Route they need to fly much further offshore at all times and maintain higher minimum altitudes. Further pilots should be subject to speed limits and more neighborly mandatory curfews should be imposed. These strategies must be used together, simply choosing one will do little to abate noise.

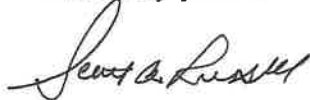
Southold Town is aware that East Hampton will regain control over its airport in the fall of 2021. Southold Town does not want its' residents' quality of life and right to the peaceful enjoyment of their homes to be negatively impacted by KHTO bound helicopters, seaplanes and jets anymore. If the aviation community works to completely abate noise for Southold Town residents that would be welcome. Should 2021 include

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continued resident noise complaints produced by aircraft, then Southold Town will fully support any re-purposing of the KHTO land for a quieter and more environmentally sustainable future.

I respectfully submit this letter on behalf of Southold's entire Town Board and the Southold Town Aircraft Noise Steering Committee.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Scott A. Russell".

Scott A. Russell  
Supervisor

cc: Senator Charles E. Schumer  
Senator Kirsten Gillibrand  
Congressman Lee Zeldin