
Murphy Scores Victory for Residents of Triangle Hills; Murphy Amendment Protects Homeowners in Negotiations with FAA

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WASHINGTON, D.C. - Today, Congressman Chris Murphy (CT-5) secured a victory for the residents of Middlebury's Triangle Hills neighborhood in their efforts to work with the Connecticut Department of Transportation (ConnDOT) and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in addressing noise and safety concerns stemming from Waterbury-Oxford Airport. Murphy secured approval of an amendment to the FAA Reauthorization Act that ensures that residents of the Triangle Hills neighborhood, whose homes are potentially eligible for purchase by the federal government per ConnDOT and FAA plans, will be provided a fair purchase price regardless of how the effort to address noise and safety has negatively affected their home value.

"My amendment is part of an ongoing effort to help the residents of Triangle Hills and make sure they get the relief they are owed. As plans to purchase Triangle Hills homes are approved, homeowners need to get a fair price. This amendment makes that much more likely," said Murphy.

Murphy has heard from residents of the neighborhood that due to efforts to address increased traffic at the airport, their property values have been adversely affected. Murphy's amendment will ensure that the FAA must consider how FAA involvement may have decreased property values when making an offer to purchase affected properties.

In February 2008, Murphy met with representatives from the FAA about the needs of the homeowners who live in the Triangle Hills neighborhood around Waterbury-Oxford Airport. Murphy pressed for the FAA to provide adequate compensation for homes eligible for purchase and for flexibility for homeowners to move into replacement homes as soon as possible. The FAA confirmed that they can provide assistance as soon as ConnDOT completes all required studies.

In March 2009, Murphy met with Governor M. Jodi Rell, State Senator Robert J. Kane, and State Representative Anthony J. D'Amelio about the Triangle Hills situation to urge ConnDOT to complete all studies as soon as possible.

And Murphy secured over \$1.1 million in the Fiscal Year 2009 budget process to provide for the implementation of the ongoing noise mitigation study and the mitigation plan developed with the community from the findings of the noise study.

"I want to personally thank Congressman Murphy. From the get-go, he got involved in this horrendous situation in Triangle Hills, and he has followed through on it. He is a man of his word, and I am very grateful," said Middlebury First Selectman Thomas Gormley.

"This is another important step in providing fair relief for the homeowners of the Triangle Hills neighborhood. I will continue to hold transportation officials' feet to the fire to make sure long-overdue assistance is delivered in the best, fairest manner possible," said Murphy.

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