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Congressman Howard L. Berman
2221 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
April 23, 2012

Re: HR 2677 - Residential Helicopter Noise Relief Act

Honorable Congressman Berman:

Founded in 1952, the Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations, Inc. represents thirty-eight homeowner and resident associations spanning the Santa Monica Mountains. The Federation strongly supports your bill, HR 2677, the Residential Helicopter Noise Relief Act which would require the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to restrict helicopter flight paths and set minimum altitudes over Los Angeles residential areas in Los Angeles within 12 months of enactment, with certain exemptions for emergency responders and the military.

Our mountain areas have long been plagued by the noise of low-flying helicopters. Tourists take flights to see the Hollywood Sign, Hollywood Bowl, and celebrity homes. The media kept their helicopters in the air throughout "Carmageddon" in spite of the fact that it turned out to be a non-event. Many helicopters routinely cross from the San Fernando Valley to downtown, but do not bother to increase their altitude when crossing the mountains. The noise impacts not only the humans but also the wildlife which resides in the Santa Monica Mountains and especially in Griffith Park.

Please be aware that Senator Schumer's bill SA 1688 (section (3) (b) seeks to amend the Los Angeles County flight paths by extending an exception to broadcast news helicopters. This amendment should not be approved as broadcast news helicopters are among the worst offenders.

The Hillside Federation commends you for proposing HR 2677 and urges its passage.

Sincerely,
Marian Dodge

Marian Dodge

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