

**NOTES ON THE PROPOSED BERMAN LEGISLATION  
(L A. HELICOPTER NOISE RELIEF ACT OF 2011)  
AND  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORTING RESOLUTIONS**

*Update: Jan. 7, 2012  
Ricarda Bennett, Esq.*

---

**FEDERAL RESOLUTIONS:**

**House of Representatives (H.R. 2677 - Original Bill)**

**House Resolution 2677 - The Los Angeles Residential Helicopter Noise Relief Act of 2011**

**HR 2677 IH  
112th CONGRESS  
1st Session  
H. R. 2677**

To direct the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to issue regulations to reduce helicopter noise pollution in residential areas of Los Angeles County, California, and for other purposes.

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
July 28, 2011**

Mr. BERMAN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
**A BILL**

To direct the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to issue regulations to reduce helicopter noise pollution in residential areas of Los Angeles County, California, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,  
**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the 'Los Angeles Residential Helicopter Noise Relief Act of 2011'.

**SEC. 2. RESIDENTIAL HELICOPTER NOISE RELIEF.**

(a) Regulations Required- Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall issue regulations for helicopter operations in Los Angeles County, California, that include requirements relating to the flight paths and altitudes associated with such operations to reduce helicopter noise pollution in residential areas.

(b) Exemptions Permitted- In issuing regulations under subsection (a), the Administrator may exempt helicopter operations related to emergency, law enforcement, or military activities from requirements described in such subsection.

**What it does:** requires the 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.

**NOTES ON THE PROPOSED BERMAN LEGISLATION  
(L A. HELICOPTER NOISE RELIEF ACT OF 2011)  
AND  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORTING RESOLUTIONS**

*Update: Jan. 7, 2012  
Ricarda Bennett, Esq.*

---

**House Sponsors of HR 2677:**

> **Adam Schiff - U.S. Congressman** - will be taking over Hollywood and West Hollywood on **Jan. 1, 2012** due to redistricting.

Contact: (626) 304-2727

Contact People: Hampton McBeth in Washington D.C.

> **Howard Berman U.S. Congressman-**

**District:** CA28

**Covers:** about half of the San Fernando Valley and North Hollywood

**H.R. 2677** - introduced the Los Angeles Residential Helicopter Noise Relief Act of 2011

> **Bradley Sherman - U.S. Congressman -**

**District:** CA27

**Covers:** includes a large portion of the San Fernando Valley and Burbank, as well as the communities of Northridge and Reseda (includes entirety of **NHMC**)

**Co-sponsored this legislation.** On 3/30/11 He wrote on Op-Ed with Howard Berman speaking out against aviation noise in the Valley<sup>1</sup>.

**NOTES ON THE PROPOSED BERMAN LEGISLATION  
(L A. HELICOPTER NOISE RELIEF ACT OF 2011)  
AND  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORTING RESOLUTIONS**

*Update: Jan. 7, 2012  
Ricarda Bennett, Esq.*

---

**> Henry Waxman - U.S. Congressman -**

**District:** CA30

**Covers:** many of the upper-class suburbs of Los Angeles, most notably Hollywood, West Hollywood, Beverly Hills, Santa Monica, Agoura Hills, Woodland Hills, and Malibu in Greater Los Angeles

**Co-sponsored this legislation**

**> Janice Hahn- U.S. Congressman -(Became a Co-Sponsor of the Bill as of 12/16/11)**

**District:** CA36

**Covers:** covers most of the coastal communities of Redondo Beach, Manhattan Beach, Torrance, El Segundo, Venice, Wilmington, and San Pedro in Greater Los Angeles

**Co-sponsored this legislation**

Status of H.R. 2677:

- 7/28/11 - presented to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.
- 7/29/11 - sent to the Subcommittee on Aviation (part of the aforementioned committee on transport and infrastructure).
- 8/18/11 - As of this date, the Aviation Committee has taken no action. The committee has only one representative from California, **Bob Filner** (CA51). Filner's district covers the entirety of Imperial County and a thin strip of San Diego County on the border with Mexico that ends just short of

**NOTES ON THE PROPOSED BERMAN LEGISLATION  
(L A. HELICOPTER NOISE RELIEF ACT OF 2011)  
AND  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORTING RESOLUTIONS**

*Update: Jan. 7, 2012  
Ricarda Bennett, Esq.*

---

Imperial Beach where it swells northward to cover Bonita, Chula Vista, and National City.

- 12/16/11 - Janice Hahn Signs on as Co-sponsor

The **HOUSE** Aviation Committee is composed of:

**REPUBLICANS (17)**

[Thomas E. Petri \(WI\), Chairman](#)

[Howard Coble \(NC\)](#)

[John J. Duncan, Jr. \(TN\)](#)

[Frank A. LoBiondo \(NJ\)](#)

[Sam Graves \(MO\)](#)

[Jean Schmidt \(OH\)](#)

[Frank Guinta \(NH\)](#)

[Randy Hultgren \(IL\)](#)

[Chip Cravaack \(MN\), Vice Chairman](#)

[Blake Farenthold \(TX\)](#)

[Billy Long \(MO\)](#)

[Patrick Meehan \(PA\)](#)

[Steve Southerland \(FL\)](#)

[James Lankford \(OK\)](#)

[Reid Ribble \(WI\)](#)

[Chuck Fleischmann \(TN\)](#)

[John L. Mica \(FL\), \(ex officio\)](#)

**DEMOCRATS (12)**

Jerry F. Costello (IL), Ranking Member

Russ Carnahan (MO)

Daniel Lipinski (IL)

Peter A. DeFazio (OR)

**Bob Filner (CA)**

Eddie Bernice Johnson (TX)

Leonard L. Boswell (IA)

Tim Holden (PA)

Michael E. Capuano (MA)

Mazie K. Hirono (HI)

Steve Cohen (TN)

Eleanor Holmes Norton (DC)

SOURCE: <http://transportation.house.gov/Subcommittees/aviation-members.shtml>

**Senate (S.2019 Companion Bill to Helicopter Noise Relief Act of 2011)**

(S.2019 is a companion to legislation with the same name introduced by Representative Howard Berman, H.R. 2677) SOURCE:

<http://www.feinstein.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2011/12/feinstein-boxer-reduce-helicopter-noise-above-los-angeles>

**S. 2019**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “Los Angeles Residential Helicopter Noise Relief Act of 2011”.

**SEC. 2. REGULATIONS TO REDUCE HELICOPTER NOISE POLLUTION IN CERTAIN RESIDENTIAL AREAS.**

**NOTES ON THE PROPOSED BERMAN LEGISLATION  
(L A. HELICOPTER NOISE RELIEF ACT OF 2011)  
AND  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORTING RESOLUTIONS**

*Update: Jan. 7, 2012  
Ricarda Bennett, Esq.*

---

(a) REGULATIONS REQUIRED.—Not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall prescribe regulations for helicopter operations in Los Angeles County, California, that include requirements relating to the flight paths and altitudes associated with such operations to reduce helicopter noise pollution in residential areas, increase safety, and minimize commercial aircraft delays.

(b) EXEMPTIONS.—In prescribing regulations under subsection (a), the Administrator shall exempt helicopter operations related to emergency, law enforcement, or military activities from the requirements described in that subsection.

(c) CONSULTATIONS.—In prescribing regulation under subsection (a), the Administrator shall make reasonable efforts to consult with local communities and local helicopter operators in order to develop regulations that meet the needs of local communities, helicopter operators, and the Federal Aviation Administration.

**Senate Sponsors of S.2019:**

**> Diane Feinstein-**

**One of two California Senators**

12/16/2011 Feinstein introduced the bill and Referred to the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee

**>> Barbara Boxer-**

**One of two California Senators** - Co Sponsored S.2019 with Feinstein

**Status of S.2019:**

- Dec 16, 2011: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation (see below for committee members)

The **SENATE** Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation contains the Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security. This **SENATE** Aviation Committee consists of: (as of 12/21/11):

**Ten Majority Members (Democrat):**

**Nine Majority Members (Republican):**

**NOTES ON THE PROPOSED BERMAN LEGISLATION  
(L A. HELICOPTER NOISE RELIEF ACT OF 2011)  
AND  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORTING RESOLUTIONS**

*Update: Jan. 7, 2012  
Ricarda Bennett, Esq.*

---

Cantwell, Maria (WA), Chairman

Inouye, Daniel K. (HI)

**\*Boxer, Barbara (CA)**

Nelson, Bill (FL)

Lautenberg, Frank R. (NJ)

Klobuchar, Amy (MN)

Udall, Tom (NM)

Warner, Mark R. (VA)

Begich, Mark (AK)

Rockefeller, John D. (WV), Ex Officio

Thune, John (SD), Ranking Member

DeMint, Jim (SC)

Wicker, Roger F. (MS)

Isakson, Johnny (GA)

Blunt, Roy (MO)

Boozman, John (AR)

Toomey, Patrick J. (PA)

Heller, Dean (NV)

Hutchison, Kay Bailey (TX), Ex Officio

Source: [http://www.senate.gov/general/committee\\_membership/committee\\_memberships\\_SSCM.htm#SSCM01](http://www.senate.gov/general/committee_membership/committee_memberships_SSCM.htm#SSCM01)

---

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORTING RESOLUTIONS**

---

**1. CITY OF LOS ANGELES: Proposed Resolution - Not yet voted upon. This may change.**

RESOLUTION \_\_\_\_\_ (COUNCIL File number: 11-0002-S116)

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, for many years, Los Angeles communities have made various complaints relative to the increasing helicopter traffic over Los Angeles, which has created noise pollution, and has generated concerns related to resident safety and privacy; and

WHEREAS, most recently, the helicopter traffic significantly increased during "Carmageddon," the closure of a section of the 405 freeway, which served as a tipping point for residents' concerns and frustrations; and

WHEREAS, helicopter traffic in the Los Angeles area has been cited as excessive, as helicopters have been used for car chases, small fires, and even car accidents, creating unintended consequences for residents such as additional noise pollution which has arguably impacted the quality of life of individuals, increased concerns regarding safety, and an invasion of privacy with limited accountability; and

WHEREAS, studies show that adverse consequences to surrounding households due to excessive noise pollution of low-flying aircraft in residential areas have been linked to anxiety, hypertension, sleep disturbance, decreased school performance, stress,

**NOTES ON THE PROPOSED BERMAN LEGISLATION  
(L A. HELICOPTER NOISE RELIEF ACT OF 2011)  
AND  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORTING RESOLUTIONS**

*Update: Jan. 7, 2012  
Ricarda Bennett, Esq.*

---

and many other conditions which are highly problematic for the communities in Los Angeles; and

WHEREAS, on July 28,2011, U.S. Congressman Howard L. Berman introduce H.R.2677, the Los Angeles Residential Helicopter Noise Relief Act of2011, 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; and

WHEREAS, action as detailed in H.R. 2677, would mitigate many issues which have been created as a result of heavy low-flying helicopter traffic over residential areas, and would serve as a great relief to the people of Los Angeles;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles, hereby includes in its 2011-2012 Federal Legislative Program SUPPORT of H.R. 2677, which would require the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to restrict helicopter flight paths and set minimum altitudes in Los Angeles County.

**Paul Koretz (CD 5) and Tom Labonge (CD4) (seconded by Eric Garcetti (CD13) want to adopt a Resolution of the City Council of Los Angeles for the 2011-2012 Federal legislative Program to Support HR 2677 - for the FAA to restrict helicopter flight paths and set minimum altitudes in Los Angeles County.**

**[This bill was presented to the Information Technology and Government Affairs Committee on 7/29/11:](#)**

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE:

Meeting Time: 1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 2:00PM  
Meeting Loc: Room 1010

Members:

<b><u>Position:</u></b>	<b><u>Name:</u></b>	<b><u>Phone:</u></b>	<b><u>District:</u></b>
Chairperson:	TONY CARDENAS	213-473-7006	6th
Vice Chair:	JAN PERRY	213-473-7009	9th
Other Member(s):	DENNIS P. ZINE	213- 473-7003	3rd

-----The people below this line handle the agendas-----

Legal asst.	MARIA ESPINOZA	213- 978-1078	n/a
Alternate:	ERIKA PULST	213- 978-1075	n/a

EMAIL: [councilmember.lastname@lacity.org](mailto:councilmember.lastname@lacity.org)

**[This bill was THEN presented to the Intergovernmental Relations Committee on Sept 12, 2011](#)**

INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

**NOTES ON THE PROPOSED BERMAN LEGISLATION  
(L A. HELICOPTER NOISE RELIEF ACT OF 2011)  
AND  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORTING RESOLUTIONS**

*Update: Jan. 7, 2012  
Ricarda Bennett, Esq.*

---

Meeting Time: 1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 2:00PM

Meeting Loc: Room 1060

<b><u>Position:</u></b>	<b><u>Name:</u></b>	<b><u>Phone:</u></b>	<b><u>District:</u></b>
Chairperson:	RICHARD ALARCON	213-473-7007	7th
Vice Chair:	VACANT		
Other Member(s):	HERB J. WESSON, JR	213- 473-7010	10th
EMAIL: <a href="mailto:councilmember.lastname@lacity.org">councilmember.lastname@lacity.org</a>			

**2. CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD:**

**THIS WAS PASSED.**

RESOLUTION NO. 11-4209

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD SUPPORTING H.R. 2677  
(BERMAN):LOS ANGELES RESIDENTIAL HELICOPTER NOISE RELIEF ACT OF 2011.

WHEREAS, on July 28, 2011, Congressman Howard L. Berman introduced legislation to provide Los Angeles County residents relief from the ear-shattering noise and safety concerns caused by low-flying helicopters above residential neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, This bill entitled, The Los Angeles Residential Helicopter Noise Relief Act of 2011, H.R. 2677, would force the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to restrict helicopter flight paths and set minimum altitudes within 12 months of being signed into law; and

WHEREAS, The City of West Hollywood, being a hub for celebrities and entertainment, has been subjected to an increasing onslaught of excessive and intrusive noise pollution from helicopters hovering over residential areas, for the most part due from the media and paparazzi, not law enforcement agencies; and

WHEREAS, The FAA has failed to regulate helicopter flights above Los Angeles County; and this failure to act is what allows helicopter operators to fly in a manner that creates excessive noise pollution and jeopardizes the safety and privacy of residents in their homes, leaving residents without any means to seek and secure relief from this annoying problem; and

WHEREAS, The City of West Hollywood has in the past attempted to address our residents concerns by working closely with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Aero Bureau, the Professional Helicopters Pilot Association (PHPA) without success; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 2677 would solve the problem by requiring the FAA to exercise its explicit legal authority to regulate helicopter operations above Los Angeles within 12 months of being signed into law; calling upon the Administrator of the FAA to set guidelines on flight paths and minimum altitudes for helicopter operators in residential areas of Los Angeles County, including the City of West Hollywood, with exemptions for law enforcement, emergency responders, and the US military; and



**NOTES ON THE PROPOSED BERMAN LEGISLATION  
(L A. HELICOPTER NOISE RELIEF ACT OF 2011)  
AND  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORTING RESOLUTIONS**

*Update: Jan. 7, 2012  
Ricarda Bennett, Esq.*

---

WHEREAS, supporting this bill reflects the City of West Hollywood's commitment to quality of life for all residents:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of West Hollywood hereby supports H.R. 2677 (Berman) to require the FAA to adopt regulations to restrict helicopter flight paths and set minimum altitudes above Los Angeles County within 12 months of being signed into law.

City Council passed resolution 11-4209. It was passed as item 2.EE on the consent calendar at the 8/15/11 City Council Meeting, there were no votes against item 2.EE

**3. BOARD OF HOLLYWOOD UNITED NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL:**

**THIS WAS PASSED.**

On Oct. 17, 2011, the Board of the Hollywood United Neighborhood Council unanimously voted to support HR 2677, the Los Angeles Noise Relief Act, to require that the FAA finally develop a set of standards to regulate the use of helicopters in residential areas. This is a major concern in Hollywood and the Hollywood Hills where resident are regularly inundated with noise from low flying crafts.

**4. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY:**

**THIS WAS ON THE NOV. 8, 2011 AGENDA AND PASSED**

> MOTION BY SUPERVISOR ZEV YAROSLAVSKY November 1, 2011

> United States Representative Howard Berman, D-Van Nuys has introduced the Los Angeles Residential Helicopter Noise Relief Act of 2011, H.R. 2677. The bill would direct the Federal Aviation Administration to restrict helicopter flight paths and establish minimum altitudes. Although non-emergency helicopter use has been a problem for some time, there has recently been a proliferation of such flights. Neighborhoods in the San Fernando Valley and in the Santa Monica Mountains have been inundated with media, tours and paparazzi helicopters resulting in significant increase in noise pollution, invasion of privacy and safety concerns. Continuing disturbing noise intrusion by hovering helicopters over the famous Hollywood Bowl creates egregious impacts for as many as 18,000 patrons a night during their season.

> I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors support H.R. 2677, the

**NOTES ON THE PROPOSED BERMAN LEGISLATION  
(L A. HELICOPTER NOISE RELIEF ACT OF 2011)  
AND  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORTING RESOLUTIONS**

*Update: Jan. 7, 2012  
Ricarda Bennett, Esq.*

---

> Los Angeles Residential Helicopter Noise Relief Act of 2011, and direct the Executive  
> Office to send a letter of support to the Honorable Tom Petri, Chair, Subcommittee on  
> Aviation, U.S. House of Representatives and to the Honorable Jerry Costello, Ranking  
> Member, Subcommittee on Aviation, U. S. House of Representatives.

> I FURTHER MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the County's legislative  
advocates in Washington D.C. to advocate for the most effective regulations possible, which  
recognize the unique needs of Los Angeles County's residential neighborhoods, environmental  
resources, and cultural attractions.

MOLINA

RIDLEY-THOMAS

YAROSLAVSKY \_

KNABE

ANTONOVICH

**5. CITY COUNCIL OF RANCHO PALOS VERDES**

**[THIS WAS PASSED.](#)**

On December 20,2011, the CITY OF RANCHO PALOS VERDES voted unanimously to support H.R. 2677 and to send a letter to Congress which includes the following paragraph:

"H.R. 2677, submitted by Representative Howard Berman, could have a significant positive impact on the residents of Rancho Palos Verdes and neighboring communities. Rancho Palos Verdes attracts a significant number of commercial and private helicopters due to its miles of coastline and spectacular topography. Additionally, the Palos Verdes Peninsula is in close proximity to Torrance Airport, which is home to a major helicopter manufacturer and a large

**NOTES ON THE PROPOSED BERMAN LEGISLATION  
(L A. HELICOPTER NOISE RELIEF ACT OF 2011)  
AND  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORTING RESOLUTIONS**

*Update: Jan. 7, 2012  
Ricarda Bennett, Esq.*

---

fleet of helicopters. Residents of our City have lodged complaints about noise disturbances caused by low-flying helicopters in residential areas."

---

ENDNOTES:

1.Schiff, Adam B. "Brad Sherman & Adam Schiff & Howard Berman: Support Noise Relief Act at Valley Airports - LA Daily News." Editorial. LA Daily News 29 Mar. 2011. Home - LA Daily News. 29 Mar. 2011. Web. 18 Aug. 2011. <[http://www.dailynews.com/opinions/ci\\_17727444](http://www.dailynews.com/opinions/ci_17727444)>