



AMBASSADOR OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
OTTAWA, CANADA

March 4, 2015

The Honourable Elizabeth May, O.C., M.P.
Member of Parliament for Saanich-Gulf Islands
Leader of the Green Party of Canada
Room 518, Confederation Building
Ottawa, ON
Canada K1A 0A6

Dear Ms. May: *Elizabeth*

Thank you for reaching out to me on the issue of air activity associated with U. S. Naval Air Station Whidbey Island. I greatly appreciate your concerns and those of your constituents regarding the proposed increases in aircraft numbers and sonar activity. I have passed them on to the U.S. Navy who has just concluded a period of soliciting public comments on the initiatives. I am certain your concerns are being considered because they are the same as those voiced by our citizens. In the end, I'm confident the process will weigh all the factors because the U.S. government has a history of great interest in environmental issues, to include noise pollution and the well-being of marine life.

It is always challenging to find the right balance between good stewardship over the environment and maintaining a well-trained defense force. The U.S. government and all its components recognize that we share the environment with the people, plants, and animals that rely on land and ocean ecosystems. We are proud of our record in taking the necessary precautions to minimize the effects of military activities on complex environments.

I appreciate your interest and look forward to seeing you again soon.

Sincerely,

Bruce A. Heyman