

## A letter to Bob Ferguson, AG:

Dear Mr. Ferguson:

As an organization of health professionals concerned with the documented damages to hearing from noise levels produced by the Whidbey Island Growler fleet, we deeply appreciate your legal challenge to the Navy's proposed plan to even further expand the fleet. In addition to physical threats to the health of residents, the adverse impact on overall quality of life for WA residents throughout the broader region from the relentless, hourly noise din is remarkable.

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Who among us, including Navy leaders, would find living day in and day out in a crucible of 24-hour disruptive noise tolerable? The area impacted, of course, is much larger than Whidbey Island and its surrounds. Documented noise pollution in Olympic National Park, already a disturbing reality, can only increase from expansion of the Growler fleet. The

National Park Service's Natural Sounds and Night Skies Division has helped park managers across the country reduce noise, for instance, by restricting snowmobiles. But airplane overflights, the NPS reports, are the biggest noise threats in backcountry areas such as the ONP - an area where WA residents flock for the quiet of wilderness experiences.

The military has been unmoved. It is for this, the larger perspective on the presence and intrusion of the military and "militarization" in our state, that we express our appreciation for your taking this action.

Typically, when any branch of the U.S. military is challenged regarding its impacts, the flag of "national security" appears. The extent to which the military can continue to roll over complaints about its presence or impacts under the cover of national security is a reflection of the extent to which we have become a militarized society. The Growler issue is simply a perfect local example. Considering the very large presence the U.S. military has in this state, it is rare in our experience for any elected official in Washington to publicly challenge any Pentagon position or decision affecting Washington residents.

Your lawsuit is a refreshing and commendable exception, challenging their demonstrably inadequate health and environmental reviews before further expansion of this grossly offensive and damaging presence on Whidbey Island and the Olympic National Park.

We appreciate your assertive action on behalf of Washington residents, and especially the health and overall quality of life for residents in the northwest corner of our state.

Sincerely,

Bruce Amundson, MD  
Vice President  
Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility  
Seattle WA

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