

Negating Neighborhood Noise Act

Endorsing Organizations: Quiet Communities

The Negating Neighborhood Noise Act allows Surface Transportation Block Grant Program funds to be used to build noise barriers in residential neighborhoods that predate nearby interstate highways; closing a gap in federal law that currently prohibits this funding for existing highways. It also empowers local communities to design barriers that reflect the character of the neighborhoods they protect.

Why does this matter?

Millions of Americans live in neighborhoods that existed long before nearby interstates were built, yet current law leaves them without access to federal funds for noise mitigation. This places the burden squarely on residents who had no say in the highway's construction. Chronic exposure to highway traffic noise is not just an inconvenience; research links it to serious health consequences including cardiovascular disease, sleep disruption, and elevated stress. This bill gives states and communities the flexibility they need to protect constituents, maximize federal dollars, and invest in forward-looking infrastructure like broadband and clean energy at the same time.

By the numbers:

- 45 million people in the U.S. live within 300 feet of a major transportation facility or infrastructure.¹
- Road traffic noise pollution has been found to increase chronic stress, cause disturbed sleep and higher blood pressure.²
- Due to noise pollution, there is a 4% - 10% drop in home values near highways.³

^[1]<https://www.epa.gov/air-research/research-near-roadway-and-other-near-source-air-pollution#:~:text=wildfire%20smoke%20overdrafts.-,Roadways,heart%20problems%20and%20premature%20death.>

^[2]<https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20240621-how-traffic-noise-pollution-harms-childrens-health-and-development>

^[3]<https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/2022-11/The%20Polluted%20Life%20Near%20the%20Highway.pdf>