

## **Lame Duck Board**

East Hampton  
November 14, 2011

To The East Hampton Star:

Within 48 hours of the election that has left us uncertain about who will control the East Hampton Town Board in the new year, the lame duck board audaciously rushed its first step toward eliminating local control of airport noise for another 20 years.

The lame duck board desperately hopes to obtain Federal Aviation Administration money before Jan. 1 to repair the airport's deer fence. But the airport's confirmed existing surplus is \$1.5 million.

Obviously there is no need for F.A.A. money to repair a fence. But the lame ducks need the F.A.A. subsidy in order to lock in for another two years the subsidy conditions that bar local airport noise control. That way, local leaders will have no ability for 20 years to impose curfews on helicopters or jets or to limit touch-and-gos, that is, no ability and no responsibility to the voters to do so.

The lame ducks are afraid that after Jan. 1 a new town board might carry out campaign promises for a comprehensive analysis to determine whether F.A.A. money is really needed in the long run.

Shame on the lame ducks. But their first step is to call for a hearing to be held on Dec. 1 for public discussion. Whatever the election results, the citizenry should rise up at this Dec. 1 hearing and demonstrate that the public wants local control and effective noise abatement.

Sincerely,  
CHARLES A. EHREN JR.