Debi Wagner

Since 1993, I’ve helped co-found a national aviation watch organization, networked with other groups throughout the world, gathered data, worked as an elected official to push for better environmental control, led a grassroots organization, wrote a book, been a community leader in environmental and climate justice, even sued the FAA, you name it I’ve done it for almost 30 years.

My vision is that the industry admits they’ve done it all wrong, from noise metrics to soot on patios. But reality tells me this will not happen anytime soon. Our interests for quality of life and healthy living are immediate but in direct opposition to industry goals of growth and profit. No matter how often I complain about fuel odors or night-time noise, to people whose business interests and principles are opposed to change, my voice is easy to ignore. There is currently no regulatory framework for checks to control what the aviation industry does.

The collaborative partnerships between people, legislators and academics provide hope. We have an amazing story of working together to get our questions answered and moving from credible science to possible solutions. We want to share how that process has changed the course of discussions on a local, state and federal level and how it can help us all.

I am so thankful for the great people we have met in research positions who are happy to answer our questions and grateful to the legislators who provided opportunity and funding for academic pursuits. Most of all, I am thankful for the way we can work together with real tools and caring partners to pursue positive progress to benefit people and planet.

Debi Wagner, author “Over My Head”

