

Ms. Rosalind Ruth Peterson  
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***Health and Environmental Impacts***

According to county public health officials, there have been no spikes in reported illnesses over the past few years. Our counties also do not record any variation in the California norm for respiratory illnesses in specific. This leads to the conclusion that contrails, even if they did not dissipate before they reach the ground, which I am advised, they do, are not impacting public health.

The negative impacts to air quality on the North Coast comes primarily from wood smoke. Air quality is otherwise in compliance with all state standards. Lake County, where the FAA maps show has the highest concentration of jet traffic, continues to record the cleanest air in the state.

Many of you have expressed concern about whether contrails could contribute to the dead and dying trees in our counties. I have spoken with representative in the Department of Forestry and with one of the most respected plant pathologists in the state regarding this issue. Both men have years of personal experience in our counties. Their conclusions, reached quite independently, are that the dead and dying trees many of you are seeing are normal and cyclical. In other words, these trees are part of a normal mortality pattern that does not raise any red flags with the scientists.

They also advise that if a causative agent falling from the sky was contributing to tree mortality, there would be wide swatches of dead and dying trees instead of isolated dead trees near healthy trees, which is what we are seeing.

We do know that environmental conditions such as draught or air pollution can stress trees, causing them to be more susceptible to disease. We know that contrails affect temperature and I believe there is more to learn about whether this, in turn, could impact changes in crop growth and/or the emergence of insect pests and diseases. However, my research does not lead me to believe that either the government or anyone in the private sector is deliberately trying to alter the environment. It is more a consequence of our way of life.

In conclusion, hundreds of airplanes pass over the North Coast daily. Jet aircraft produce contrails that with the right atmospheric conditions, can persist and form unusual shapes or cirrus-like haze. We are experiencing more of these hazy days than we have in the past. There haven't been any reported public health anomalies nor is the vegetation dying in patterns that are alarming scientists.

I am satisfied with the explanations I have received, but I intend to keep an open mind about this issue.

Thank you for bringing your observations and concerns to my attention and thank you for providing me with background materials. I am returning them with this letter. I appreciate your commitment to making our beautiful North Coast as healthy and safe as possible.

Sincerely,



**MIKE THOMPSON**  
Member of Congress  
First District of California

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enclosures