



**IF YOU WERE TO
PICK THE ABSOLUTE
WORST PLACE
TO PUT AN AIR AND
WATER POLLUTING
AIRPORT, THIS
WOULD BE IT.**

GROUND ZERO.

Without getting too technical, the Magothy Aquifer is the Town of East Hampton's sole source of drinkable water. Needless to say, maintaining its purity is essential. The East Hampton Airport sits directly atop the deepest and most critical part of the Aquifer. You hardly need a scientist to tell you that pumping a million gallons of fuel annually, thousands of landings and takeoffs, and the inexcusably unwise practice of testing firefighting foam on airport grounds is not a healthy idea.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has detected four different locations on airport property that show evidence of contamination. It is likely that this contamination is responsible for the poisoning of wells in Wainscott. A further investigation by the DEC was just announced and is in process. A remedial process costing the Town of East Hampton tens of millions of dollars is not only possible but likely. Ah, but of course somebody is profiting from pumping all that fuel: primarily it's the one single operator, Sound Aircraft Services.

The Town Board has the power to correct a bad mistake and live up to its pledge to become a Climate Smart Town. When the Town accepted FAA funds twenty years ago, it surrendered the right to control its own destiny and that of the 610 acres it handed over to the airport. The facts are irrefutable. The East Hampton Airport exists only for the benefit of the companies that profit from it and the pleasure and convenience of a handful of willful people while damaging the lives of many thousands of others.

At the end of September, all FAA agreements expired. By refusing further FAA funding, East Hampton can shutter the airport and regain control of the 610 acres of valuable land devoted to its use, reimagining its enormous potential for projects that would benefit the entire community rather than an over privileged and uncaring few.

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[*Everyone is entitled to their own opinion, but not their own facts.*]

Daniel Patrick Moynihan