

# CONGRATULATIONS, THE EAST HAMPTON AIRPORT IS NOW RIGHT UP THERE WITH THE BIG GUYS, LAGUARDIA AND JFK, AS NEW YORK STATE'S BIGGEST POLLUTERS.

(MAYBE THE EAST HAMPTON TOWN BOARD WOULD LIKE TO EXPLAIN HOW  
A COWARDLY COMPROMISE WOULD SQUARE WITH THEIR "BOLD" PLEDGE TO  
BE A CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITY.)

**Yes, you read correctly. Relax, take a deep breath.  
(Well, maybe not that.)**

**FACT:** During takeoffs and landings, airplane emissions contain a variety of noxious air pollutants including carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, in one hour of flight, a typical private jet emits more carbon into the air that you breathe than a typical car does in one year.

**FACT:** The Environmental Analysis commissioned by the Town concluded that 6% of the Town's harmful emissions are produced by 1% of the population – which just happens to be the 1% that insist that the airport be maintained for their convenience. We can't eliminate cars, but we can certainly eliminate aircraft.

**Okay, how about a drink of water?  
(Well, maybe not that either.)**

**FACT:** 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.

**FACT:** The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has detected four different locations on airport property that show evidence of contamination. Contamination responsible for the poisoning of wells in Wainscott. A further investigation is in process as we write this. And the remedial actions required by the DEC will cost the taxpayers tens of millions of dollars. Ah, but of course somebody is profiting from pumping all that fuel: one single operator, Sound Aircraft Services.

**For the first time in two decades, the Town of East Hampton has the power to take back the 610 acres it handed over to the airport with embarrassingly little return to show for it. The question is do they have the courage to stand up to pressure from entitled 1% and do it?.**

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.

**FACT:** The unpleasant truth is that 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 and health of many thousands of others.

**Given all the facts, it ought to be clear to the East Hampton Town Board that there is only one rational response: close the airport.**

## THEFACTHOUNDS

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

Daniel Patrick Moynihan



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