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Dear Members of City Council:

For years, my husband and I have suffered from from loud noise and vibration from a Residential Air Conditioner—noise so intrusive, irritating, and continuous that we cannot sleep in our own bedroom for many months of the year. I have two comments and associated requests.

1. The proposed decreases in decibel limits for Residential Air Conditioners/Stationary Sources are welcome, but don't go far enough. No changes are made to overly high outdoor daytime limits, allowing loud machine noise to intrude on proximal outdoor spaces. And proposed indoor night-time limits of 40 dB(A) are not low enough to protect us from serious negative health impacts of sleep disturbance. **WHO guidelines specify that “the mean sound level prevailing in bedrooms should not exceed 30 dB(A)”.**

Please amend the proposals to further reduce outdoor and indoor decibel limits for Residential Air Conditioners/Stationary Sources.

2. The proposed bylaw clauses for Residential Air Conditioners/Stationary Sources state that indoor decibel limits apply only “if a By-law Enforcement Officer determines it is not reasonable to measure from a point of reception in an outdoor living area”. **This is a very problematic restriction, making room for the following sort of cases:**
 - Case 1: It's nighttime. A Residential Air Conditioner registers 50 dB(A) in my bedroom and 45 dB(A) on my back deck (the device is closer to bedroom than deck). **The indoor levels are 10 dB(A) above the proposed bylaw limits. But there's nothing I can do about it—indeed, the indoor limits in the bylaw don't even apply—**since it is 'reasonable' (possible, on the natural reading) to take the measurement on my back deck and the outdoor measurement doesn't violate the outdoor decibel limits.
 - Case 2: It's daytime. An Air Conditioner registers 50 dB(A) in Fatema's living room and 50 dB(A) on her front porch. **The indoor decibel levels are 5 dB(A) above the proposed bylaw limits. But there's nothing Fatema can do about it—indeed, the indoor limits don't even apply—**since it is 'reasonable' to take the measurement on her porch and the outdoor measurement doesn't violate the outdoor decibel limits.

These problematic loopholes must be closed. **Please remove the problematic restriction in the bylaw clauses for Residential Air Conditioners/Stationary Sources, so that the indoor decibel limits can be guaranteed to apply and be enforced.**

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jessica Wilson
Professor