

August 4, 2005

The Honorable Larry Phillips
Metropolitan King County Council
King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue, Room 1200
Seattle WA 98104-3272

Dear Chairman Phillips:

The Executive Committee of the Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce has carefully considered the recent proposal to expand the capabilities of Boeing Field to serve major passenger airlines. We have heard the viewpoints on this issue from the Port of Seattle and various airlines, including Alaska, Horizon, United, and Northwest. We have also met with King County Executive Ron Sims and Mr. Gary Kelly, Vice Chairman and CEO of Southwest Airlines. In the end, our Chamber leadership has concluded that the expanded use of Boeing Field runs counter to this region's nearly two-decade long aviation capacity planning process, is not in the best interests of the traveling public, and has the serious potential to undermine Seattle-Tacoma International Airport's success as Washington's premier commercial airport.

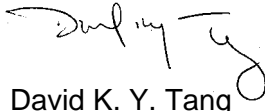
We know that truly world-class cities and regions require first-rate airport facilities that effectively and efficiently serve airlines, passengers, and freight movement. We stand behind the conclusion of the Puget Sound Regional Council's "Flight Plan" recommendations which concluded that expanded runway and terminal capacity at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport was the most economically feasible and environmentally responsible choice for commercial aviation in Western Washington for the foreseeable future.

We believe that it is not in the best interests of King County taxpayers to finance any planning efforts for the expansion of Boeing Field's commercial aviation capacity. The "Flight Plan" recommendations clearly indicated that a future reliever airport for our region should be sited to serve the growing populations centers in either the northern or southern parts of the Everett-Bellevue-Seattle-Tacoma metropolitan area. We do not see the wisdom of two commercial airports sharing the same airspace in the geographic center of the region simultaneously competing for scarce federal and regional infrastructure and security dollars.

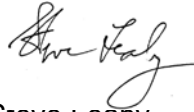
We also have concerns about the potential deterioration of our region's domestic and international air service. If Sea-Tac International Airport were to lose up to 20 percent of its feed from domestic carriers it could harm current international routes and greatly harm our region's future aspirations for more international carriers and routes. From the story in last Friday's Puget Sound Business Journal, it also seems that movement of some commercial airline traffic to Boeing Field will likely disrupt the movement of freight cargo carried in the holds of passenger aircraft.

We appreciate your serious consideration of our views on this important matter. We look forward to working with you to best serve the economic and air traffic requirements of our region. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Steve Leahy at 206-389-7226.

Sincerely,



David K. Y. Tang
Partner, Preston Gates & Ellis
Chamber Chair, 2004-05



Steve Leahy
President & CEO

cc: King County Executive Ron Sims
Metropolitan King County Councilmembers
Mr. Gary Kelly, Vice Chairman & CEO, Southwest Airlines
Mr. Bill Ayer, Chairman & CEO, Alaska Airlines
Mr. Mic Dinsmore, CEO, Port of Seattle