



## AIRCRAFT OWNERS AND PILOTS ASSOCIATION

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April 30, 2007

Honorable David Gossett  
Chairman  
Snohomish County Council  
3000 Rockefeller Avenue  
Everett, WA 98201

Dear Chairman Gossett:

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) represents the general aviation interests of more than 411,000 members nationwide, of which 12,000 are residents of the state of Washington. AOPA is committed to ensuring the continued viability, growth and development of the general aviation industry and airports in Washington and the United States.

We are writing to encourage the County Council to support proposed safety improvements planned for the runway configuration at Harvey Airfield (S43). The proposed configuration includes a 2,400-foot runway free of obstructions, as opposed to the current 2,600-foot runway with obstacles restricting the usable length to less than 2,200 feet. These safety improvements will not result in larger types of aircraft using the airport. The safety of all pilots and passengers using the airport, as well as local community members living near the airport, will be enhanced by these airport improvements.

The Puget Sound Regional Council recognizes the vital role Harvey Field plays as a part of the local, state and national aviation transportation system and identified that role in the 2001 Regional Airport System Plan. With over 139,000 operations each year and with 320-based aircraft, Harvey Field is one of the busiest general aviation airports in the region. Additionally, the airport serves as a reliever airport to Seattle-Tacoma – which means that it provides an “attractive alternate” for aircraft arriving in the area, which serves to reduce delays at the airline hub airport.

Although the airport is privately owned, it is a public facility, which significantly contributes to the local economy. In addition to employment and generation of local tax revenues, the airport acts as a conduit of economic development infusing millions of dollars into the local community. According to the Washington State Department of Transportation Aviation Division’s 2001 Aviation Forecast and Economic Analysis Study, Harvey Field contributes an annual economic benefit to the county that includes more than 446 jobs, over \$7.5 million in labor earnings and more than \$22.2 million in economic activity. There are an estimated 19,000 visitors arriving at the airport annually.

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These visitors spend their money in the community thus supporting job creation for residents of your county. That economic engine for the county and City of Snohomish will be severely constrained should the airport lose the ability to develop the property it currently owns.

The improvements at Harvey Field are improvements previously identified in the 2001 Puget Sound Regional Airport System Plan. Therefore, we urge you and your colleagues on the Council to give due consideration to the request by the owners of Harvey Field in their undertaking of these safety enhancements at the airport. With these safety improvements, everyone will win.

Thank you for considering our comments. If we can be of further assistance please contact me at 301-695-2205.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Dunn", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bill Dunn  
Vice President  
Airports

cc: Councilmember John Koster  
Councilmember Kirke Sievers  
Councilmember Gary Nelson  
Councilmember Dave Somers

Snohomish County Executive  
Aaron Reardon  
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