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January 12, 2009

The Honorable John Tarrant  
Mayor  
City of Shelton  
525 West Cota Street  
Shelton, WA 98584

Dear Mayor Tarrant:

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) represents the general aviation interests of 414,500 members, more than two-thirds of the nation's pilots – including 12,049 of our members in the state of Washington. On behalf of our membership, AOPA is committed to ensuring the future viability and development of general aviation airports and their facilities as part of a national transportation system.

We are writing to express our concern with the proposal to rezone 120 acres of property south of the Sanderson Field from Commercial Industrial to Commercial Residential. As a recipient of Federal Aviation Administration airport improvement funds, the City as the airport sponsor is contractually obligated with ensuring compatible land use around the airport to the best of their ability. Allowing potential residential development so close to a critical transportation asset and essential public facility such as the airport is not consistent with those obligations.

AOPA requests that the City maintain the current Commercial Industrial zoning designation and find compatible uses for the property. More than two years ago the City adopted airport overlay zoning in accordance with Washington State requirements to prevent incompatible land uses. We encourage the City to uphold those protections and not allow incompatible use such as residential development adjacent to the airport.

Thank you for your consideration of our views on this matter. If we can be of further assistance please contact us at 301-695-2200.

Sincerely,

John L. Collins  
Manager  
Airport Policy