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November 18, 2009

VIA FACSIMILE

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

RE: SEPA #05-09, Shelton Hills Investors Land Use Map Amendment and Rezone

Dear Mayor Tarrant:

In January of this year I wrote to you expressing the concerns that the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) had with the proposed rezoning of 120 acres of property south of the Sanderson Airport (SHN) from Commercial Industrial to Commercial Residential. Our concerns still stand regarding that rezoning proposal even as it moves forward under the SEPA action.

AOPA strongly opposes this rezoning as we contend that it will create a future hazard to the Sanderson Airport. It is located directly under the downwind legs for both Runway 5 and 23. At airports across the nation, residential developments that are under or adjacent to the traffic pattern, such as this one clamor for the restriction of traffic at those airports due to repetitive overflights, noise and other impacts on the neighbors. The citizens that are affected by normal airport operations desire relief from a series of poor decisions beginning with the municipality's failure to adequately plan and ending with the resident's decision to purchase a home under an airport traffic pattern.

Rather than create a constant source of constituent aggravation, AOPA again respectfully requests that you do not change the zoning to allow residential development in this area near the airport. Keep the zoning the same, look for better suited uses to occupy the property and prevent future conflict for your citizens, the airport and the City. There are many other more compatible uses for this land that could bring additional economic activity and revenue to your community, and help you improve the quality of life for your citizens. We encourage you to talk with economic development experts to help locate some of the many good businesses that benefit by being located near airports.

Sincerely,

John L. Collins
Manager
Airport Policy

cc:

Steve Goins, City of Shelton, Director of Community and Economic Development
John Dobson, Port of Shelton
John Shambaugh, WSDOT Aviation Division

AIRCRAFT OWNERS AND PILOTS ASSOCIATION