

# HeraldNet

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## PAINE FIELD

### In the end, a deal is a deal

In a [Nov. 23 guest commentary](#), Everett City Councilman Paul Roberts addressed the minimal impact upon industry if commercial aviation comes to Paine Field.

He ignored the enormous impact on community.

Mr. Roberts presented facts, data, and opinion-as-fact. One such: "Denying commercial service will jeopardize FAA funding essential to the aerospace industry." Not true. Snohomish County can keep FAA funds. Just play by their rules. That's a fact.

Mr. Roberts' facts miss the point. This is not simply an issue of data but an issue of ethics.

These too are facts. In 1978, county government and airport area residents came to a written agreement on airport development, now called the Mediated Role Determination (MRD). This document states that Paine Field will be a general aviation facility only.

Subsequently, acres of forest around Paine Field were remodeled into family homes. Whole communities were created. Many in business made millions on this deal. Today, development is done and profits pocketed. Now business is back, intent on changing the rules.

Mr. Roberts defines noise pollution as the all-dominant issue. It is not.

By example, traffic congestion is a major issue. Mukilteo is drowning in traffic, in part because the city is locked in geographically. Cramming the still greater volumes that commercial/cargo would require might well sink the whole region.

There are other negative consequences. Included are visual blight, crime, prostitution, drug use, diminishing public education, citizen's home equity loss and subsequent tax revenues lost to governments because of depressed property values.

This can be avoided. How? Encourage aerospace industries to locate at Paine Field, associating with Boeing. Skilled jobs are created and business revenues increase while negative impacts dissipate. Business, communities and governments benefit.

The fact remains: Ethics count. A deal is a deal.

This about-face is unconscionable.

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