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February 6, 2009

Ms. Carol Suomi
Manager, Seattle Airport District Office
Federal Aviation Administration
1601 Lind Avenue, S.W., Suite 250
Renton, Washington 98057

Dear Ms. Suomi:

Thank you for taking the time yesterday to address my concerns regarding the Federal Aviation Administration's perception of the negotiation process between Snohomish County and commercial air service providers at Paine Field.

Per our conversation, it was my understanding that the FAA had concerns regarding granting compliance and the length of time that the negotiation process has taken thus far. I am happy to hear that the FAA has not received any complaints from either airlines throughout this process and has received regular updates from Snohomish County. Further, it is my understanding that:

1. Snohomish County is currently and has consistently acted in good faith throughout its negotiations for commercial air service at Paine Field. The County was and continues to be compliant with the "good faith" negotiation requirement specified by FAA and statutory regulations.
2. At this time, Snohomish County remains in full compliance with all statutory requirements attached to FAA funding.
3. The current concerns regarding negotiations between Snohomish County and commercial air carriers have been resolved and will not prejudice Paine Field in FAA consideration of future discretionary funding or other potential funding streams.
4. The future of commercial flight activity at Paine Field lies with Snohomish County. However, if statutory requirements and grant assurances are not met at some future date, Snohomish County is aware of the potential consequences that may lead to a denial of future FAA discretionary funds.

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While this process is a difficult one and it will take time for the County to reach consensus, I have the utmost confidence in the local elected officials and their intent to reach a timely and appropriate resolution. Thank you for your hard work and diligence on this issue.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Inslee". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

JAY INSLEE
Member of Congress

JRI/pm