

To the editor:

**Alas!** Our Snohomish County Council, adamantly opposed to commercial flights at Paine Field, has somehow justified their presence.

**I have some questions for them:**

Do you really think you can control airline activity – hours of operation - once the airlines begin operating?

Do you really believe that Horizon will limit themselves to 6 flights a day, or even 16?

Do you really think you can stop other airlines from joining these two and ramping traffic up to 50-100 flights per day if they wanted to do so? And, do you care how your constituents would like that?

Do you know that Allegiant Air flies old, used - and noisy – MD 80's and has customer satisfaction problems?

Do you really think the FAA will revoke airport funding if you had insisted on the highest standards regarding a terminal with airlines paying upfront, including infrastructure surrounding the airport, the increased police and fire personnel needed in the area? (And that might have dissuaded the airlines from coming to Paine Field?)

Do you really believe the moneyed developers when they say commercial flights are the answer to all our county's economic problems, an answer to your prayers for great employment opportunities?

Do you know how much a rental car clerk, snack bar waitperson, or even a TSA screener makes? How about the wait staff at the new Denny's or Shari's that gets built on the Speedway or Airport Road?)

Do you care at all about the wishes of a majority of the 120,000 residents of southern Snohomish County whose quality of life will diminish considerably, i.e. noise and air pollution, plummeting property values, leading to the loss of their retirement nest eggs, college tuition funds, and more? (Realtors are already reporting a decline in interested buyers for communities affected by Paine Field activity.)

Do you think those in favor of Paine Field expansion would feel the same if they lived under a flight path?

Do you realize that the number of business travelers is steadily declining nationwide? It is not only due to the current recession, but also because high tech innovations make video conferencing, teleconferencing, and other advancements considerably cheaper and less time-consuming to conduct business meetings without leaving their offices and homes. These are the customers your developers are counting on to fly from Paine Field; that is, besides those who are off to gamble in Vegas.

Do you realize also that many of the developers won't give a damn whether this venture is successful in the long term? They will have made their money building the infrastructure, the new Denny's, Shari's, or chain motel, even if it all stands vacant in five years.

Do you really have a good picture of what the "new and improved "cities of Mukilteo, Edmonds, Woodway, Lynnwood, Mount Lake Terrace, Brier, and even parts of Everett will look like when people start to leave in droves, and small, local businesses are forced out by the big chains?

Do you have any idea how angry people from northern parts of the county be when they are tapped to pay increased taxes to make up for the lower taxes on the devalued homes of the south county cities?

**And lastly:**

Do you really think you will be sitting in those seats in the County Council chambers after the next election?

Chris S.  
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