



AIRCRAFT OWNERS AND PILOTS ASSOCIATION

421 Aviation Way • Frederick, MD 21701-4798
Telephone (301) 695-2000 • FAX (301) 695-2375
www.aopa.org

September 9, 2005

Snohomish County Council
3000 Rockefeller Avenue
Everett, WA 98201

Dear Council Members:

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) represents the general aviation interests of over 405,000 members nationwide, more than 11,607 who are residents of the state of Washington. AOPA is committed to ensuring the continued viability, growth and development of the general aviation industry and airports in Washington and the United States.

This letter is to express AOPA's concern and opposition to the proposed zoning change for the Harvey Field Airport designating it as density fringe. It is our understanding that Alternative 4 under consideration by the Council will leave 43 acres of airport property as density fringe, which will have a negative impact on the airport's economic viability and future development. We strongly urge the Council to consider other alternatives that will provide for the future potential for development or redevelopment of Harvey Field Airport.

Although the airport is privately owned, it is a public facility, which significantly contributes to the local economy. In addition to employment and generation of local tax revenues, the airport acts as a conduit of economic development infusing millions of dollars into the local community. According to the Washington State Department of Transportation Aviation Division's 2001 *Aviation Forecast and Economic Analysis Study*, Harvey Field contributes an annual economic benefit to the county that includes more than 446 jobs, over \$7.5 million in labor earnings and more than \$22.2 million in economic activity. There are an estimated 19,000 visitors arriving at the airport annually. These visitors spend their money in the community thus supporting job creation for residents of your county. That economic engine for the county and City of Snohomish will be severely constrained should the airport lose the ability to develop the property it currently owns and which is now being proposed for rezoning.

Property rezoning issues surrounding Harvey Field Airport are not new and have been the subject of controversy since at least 1999. AOPA opposed the rezoning then and at that time the county chose to protect the airport and ensure the economic growth and benefit to Snohomish. Today AOPA encourages the Council to maintain the same course by rejecting the latest proposed zoning change at the Harvey Field Airport. Thank you for considering our comments. If we can be of further assistance please contact me at 301-695-2205.

Sincerely,

Bill Dunn
Vice President
Airports