



## AIRCRAFT OWNERS AND PILOTS ASSOCIATION

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December 7, 2006

The Honorable John Tarrant  
Mayor of the City of Shelton and Commissioner of Public Safety  
City of Shelton City Hall  
525 West Cota Street  
Shelton, WA 98584

Dear Mayor Tarrant:

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) represents the general aviation interests of more than 409,000 members, over two-thirds of the nation's pilots. Nearly 12,000 of our members live in the state of Washington. On behalf of our membership, AOPA is committed to ensuring the future viability and development of general aviation airports and their facilities as part of a national transportation system.

The State of Washington relies on a comprehensive system of airports to fully access the National Airspace System. In order to continue to have such a system the State recognized the need to protect these vital airports from incompatible land uses. To achieve that goal the Washington State Legislature amended the Washington State Growth Management Act in 1996 to require cities and counties to protect airports from incompatible land uses. This requirement is found in RCW 36.70.547 / 36.70A.510.

AOPA strongly supports the use of comprehensive land use planning to protect airports as vital and essential transportation assets. It is our understanding that the City of Shelton is currently working to develop the requisite overlay zone for Sanderson Field Airport (SHN). We applaud your leadership in moving forward to create this overlay zone – which will protect the airport now and into the future. We would encourage the City of Shelton to move forward quickly with the adoption of an airport overlay zone to protect the airport from incompatible land uses at the earliest opportunity. Resources are available from the Washington State Department of Transportation Aviation Division to assist you in meeting the State requirements.

In our 67 years of experience of general aviation airport advocacy we have found that airport sponsors and neighboring communities who actively plan for the protection of their airport rarely have problems keeping a vital transportation asset available for the use of their citizens.

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Thank you for considering the Association's views on this critical issue. If we can be of further assistance please contact our staff at 301-695-2200.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Collins". The signature is stylized with a large initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

John L. Collins  
Senior Liaison Airports  
AOPA Regional Affairs Department

cc:

Mr. Dick Taylor, Commissioner of Finance, City of Shelton  
Ms. Dawn Pannell, Commissioner of Public Works, City of Shelton  
Mr. John Shambaugh, Senior Planner, Washington State Aviation Division  
Mr. Wade Bryant, Manager, Seattle Airport District Office  
Mr. Mike Ferguson, AOPA Northwest Regional Representative  
Mr. Jack Krause, AOPA Airport Support Network Volunteer SHN