



King County

Department of Transportation

201 South Jackson Street
Seattle, WA 98104-3856

September 15, 2005

Roger Cohen
VP-Regional Affairs
Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association
421 Aviation Way
Frederick, MD 21701-4798

Dear Mr. Cohen:

On behalf of King County Executive Ron Sims, thank you for your letter of August 2, 2005, regarding Southwest Airline's interest in operating at King County International Airport, commonly known as Boeing Field. I assure you that we will make no decision on the Southwest's proposal before a thorough and meaningful process of regional discussion and evaluation takes place and the impacts on general aviation are understood. I apologize for the delay in responding.

I am proud of Boeing Field's distinguished history as an airport serving the needs of general aviation. In fact, as we evaluate the Southwest proposal, we are also looking for ways to increase the facilities we offer for general aviation use. Additional tie-downs, hangars and fuel facilities, among other opportunities, are currently being evaluated. In the end, even if Southwest does move to Boeing Field, I am committed to maintaining Boeing Field as a balanced airport that continues to meet the needs of general aviation and other users.

I also want to make it clear that Southwest Airlines approached King County about moving to Boeing Field—we did not seek their business. That said, as the owner of a public airport, the County is obligated by federal law to make reasonable efforts to accommodate any airline that asks to use our facilities. In addition to legal requirements, it is my duty as a public servant to ensure that we take a hard look at the projected environmental impacts, economic benefits and economic consequences to the people and businesses of this region.

I intend to complete this analysis and to hear from the public and key stakeholders, including the general aviation community, before deciding whether to forward a proposal on to the King County Council. I welcome any input you might have in the interim. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 206-684-1441.

Sincerely,

Harold S. Taniguchi
Director, King County Department of Transportation

cc: The Honorable Ron Sims, King County Executive

