



Graham Fire & Rescue

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By Electronic Mail Only

January 11, 2023

Warren Hendrickson
Commercial Aviation Coordinating Commission Chair
Washington State Department of Transportation
Email: CACC@wsdot.wa.gov

Re: Airport Site Selection Study - Greenfield Sites Evaluation

Dear Chair Hendrickson,

The Graham Fire & Rescue Board of Commissioners is writing to express strong objection to the inclusion of greenfield sites, Pierce County East and Pierce County Central, from being on the short list of new primary airport locations. The Board of Commissioners has received numerous concerns from our constituents about the suitability of the sites being studied, and feels an obligation to oppose the sites on behalf of our citizenry. Development of the Pierce County East and Central sites would negatively impact current and planned fire station location placements resulting in delayed delivery of life-saving fire, medical, and rescue services. In addition to compromising life safety concerns, the delayed delivery of emergency services could worsen Washington Survey & Rating Bureau Protection Class Ratings for our citizenry resulting in higher insurance premiums.

The Pierce County East and Central sites would interfere with existing road infrastructure making it difficult to access the eastern and southern areas of the Fire District and its citizenry. The road infrastructure impacts would result in long response times which could only be mitigated through costly station relocation projects.

The District is a taxpayer-supported entity and would need to invest in substantial new equipment and infrastructure to serve the intense development that would accompany a new airport. We are concerned that the airport development would not generate sufficient tax revenues to support the needed infrastructure and would negatively impact the entire community served by the District.

We recognize that the CACC has already decided to continue studying the suitability of the site. Although we oppose the siting of an airport at this site, it is critical that the CACC directly engage with the District as it moves forward with the transportation, access, and infrastructure studies. The fire service impacts will, as summarized above, be significant. We believe that if we are engaged in and consulted during the upcoming analysis, the analysis will demonstrate that the Pierce County East and Central sites are not viable locations.

Mr. Warren Hendrickson


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Sincerely,



Russell T. Barstow, Board Chair



Ryan Portmann, Commissioner




Gerald W. Gustafson, Commissioner



Robert L. Homan, Commissioner



Nicholas Bakker, Commissioner

ATTEST:


Sandi Roberts, CFO - District Secretary