

Dear Representatives,

I oppose a new commercial airport in Thurston or Pierce Counties. The three greenfield sites selected by the Commercial Aviation Coordinating Committee fail to meet many of the stated desired criteria. None of these areas have the infrastructure required to support such a project, and creating it would be cost-prohibitive for Washington taxpayers. The limited resource and environmental assessments done to date vastly underestimate the actual impact of a new airport.

Siting an airport in any of these areas would have devastating effects to drinking water and wildlife habitats. Paving thousands of acres of mature wetlands, forests and grasslands that are significant greenhouse gas neutralizers in favor of gas-emitting air traffic would prevent Washington from meeting its greenhouse gas reduction goals. An airport would displace thousands of families and businesses in a time of documented housing shortages. It would negatively affect the property values of those living near the sites, and current legislation as written could keep residents in limbo for years. If completed, the rural character of these beautiful communities would be lost forever to noise, pollution and congestion.

These sites should be declared out of contention as possible greenfield locations for a new airport in Washington State. Since ESHB-1791 ends the CACC, we should be relieved from consideration, in writing, as part of the CACC's dissolution, in observance of the fact that they exceeded their legal authority by naming sites that would interfere with military operations, in addition to exceeding their moral authority by not consulting transparently with affected communities. I urge you to amend any new legislation to immediately eliminate these greenfield sites.

Thank you,