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Re: Supporting Commuter Air Service

Dear All,

My name is Gene O'Neil and I live in Everett. I am a MVP Gold member with Alaska Airlines flying 50,000 + miles annually for the past 10 years. 6 years ago my family and I moved back to Everett from West Seattle. Living in West Seattle I was able to get to Sea-Tac airport in less than 20 minutes. Now that I live in Everett, my one way commute to Sea-Tac (on a good day) is 60 minutes. Generally speaking, I book flights that leave Seattle at 6AM just to avoid any major morning traffic. My commute home from Sea-Tac on average is 75 - 90 minutes depending on the time of day I arrive home. These are just some of the realities of my job and I understood this when we made the decision to move to Everett.

However, I do spend over \$20,000 annually on airline tickets. The taxes on each of these tickets goes directly to King County along with all of the applicable airport facility charges. These taxes and fees collected amount to just over 10% of the price of each ticket. Wouldn't this 10% be better spent if it was kept in Snohomish county? 10% of \$20,000 is \$2000. Multiply that by many of the 7,000 + travelers to Sea-Tac airport on a daily basis and all of a sudden you have an excellent source of new revenue for Snohomish County, without having to raise taxes.

I am not suggesting that Paine Field become a second Sea-Tac airport for our region. However, I travel quite frequently to Portland, Oakland, San Jose and Orange County. If I could shift 1/3 of my commuting & flying to Paine Field I would do it immediately. I am a proponent of keeping the tax \$'s I am spending right here in Snohomish county if possible. I am also a proponent of getting more cars off the freeways.

I am not an economist but if you take just 20% of the 7,000 daily travelers to Sea-Tac off our highways it would reduce the amount of travelers by 1,400 people (700 + cars?) per day. Then take the 1400 travelers averaging \$250 per person/ticket times 10% = \$35,000 in taxes & airport fees earned daily. This would amount to \$12,775,000 in taxes & airport fees annually. Pie in the sky #'s, probably but what if I was close by 50%? That's \$6,387,500. Or even 30%. That's \$3,832,500. Any way you run the #'s, the amount of potential new revenue is significant and we need these tax dollars right here in Snohomish County. I am not even factoring in the anticipated 250,000 people who will be moving to Snohomish county over the next 20 years.

Yes, I am in favor of a "reasonable" expansion of commercial airline service out of Paine Field.

Thanks,

Gene O'Neil  
Everett, WA.