



JOINT LETTER

City of Burien | City of Des Moines | City of SeaTac

June ##, 2026

Port of Seattle Commissioners

2711 Alaskan Way

Seattle, WA 98121

Dear Port Commissioners:

The Port of Seattle has a stated commitment to working with surrounding communities, championing the environment, and remaining accountable. As your neighbors in Burien, Des Moines, and SeaTac, we celebrate and stand behind these shared values.

What we are unable to stand behind is the suggestion that airport growth, as outlined in Sustainable Airport Master Plan (SAMP) Near-Term Projects (NTPs), will have no significant impact on surrounding communities.

We recognize that growth in air travel demand is anticipated and that continued investment in airport infrastructure may be necessary. Precisely because this growth is expected, it is critical that the Port fully understand, disclose, and where feasible mitigate the resulting impacts on surrounding communities before decisions are made.

Travelers do not just appear at the airport. They journey there and back through cities like ours, using infrastructure we maintain and are kept safe by emergency services we fund. Airport operations directly affect surrounding communities through aircraft noise, air quality impacts, traffic, and demands on local infrastructure and services. Residents, businesses, and local governments experience these impacts every day, making it essential that they be fully evaluated and addressed through the environmental review process.

What does increased airport capacity mean for a city next door, such as Burien, that suffers all the negative impacts but virtually none of the jobs or revenue? For a neighborhood under the flight path that can't safely site a critically needed childcare or senior care home? For community members who must stop talking until a plane and its roaring engine pass over?

We recognize the importance of the airport for the local and regional economy. While there is a clear need to address increasing operational efficiency, capacity, and safety of airport operations, decisions regarding airport growth must account for and prioritize centering the communities that experience the greatest impact.

The environmental review must also fully evaluate the disproportionate impacts borne by historically disadvantaged and airport-adjacent communities. Many residents living closest to airport operations already experience higher levels of aircraft noise, air pollution, traffic congestion, and associated health burdens. These impacts should be thoroughly analyzed and considered in decision-making.



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One concrete way the Port can convert its stated commitments from words into action is to allow for enough time for the Cities and the communities they serve to adequately review, digest, and provide thorough and useful comments on the SAMP's State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

With thousands of pages packed full of highly complex and technical language developed over the course of several years, 60 days is insufficient for meaningful, coordinated, and thoughtful review. ***This comment period must be extended to no less than 120 days.*** Providing additional time will improve the quality of public input, support a more robust and transparent review process, and help ensure that decisions regarding airport growth are informed by the perspectives of the communities most affected by those decisions.

We must collectively acknowledge that the SAMP Near-Term projects will have real and measurable significant impacts on the communities surrounding the airport, and those impacts warrant meaningful evaluation, avoidance where feasible, and mitigation when impacts cannot be avoided.

Right now, we have a valuable opportunity to navigate through shared challenges to find collaborative solutions that equitably meet the needs of the Port, neighboring jurisdictions, and the communities within them.

Our three Cities look forward to working with the Port of Seattle in seizing this opportunity and ensuring equitable outcomes for all.

Sincerely,

*Burien Mayor
Sarah Moore*

*Des Moines Mayor
Yoshiko Grace Matsui*

*SeaTac Mayor
Mohamed Egal*