

September 8, 2025

To the Leadership of the Port of Seattle,

On behalf of the City of Des Moines, we submit these comments regarding the Determination of Non-Significance (DNS) for the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (SEA) Flight Corridor Management Program. We request that the Port of Seattle *not* adopt the DNS as currently proposed. Our concerns center particularly on the program's significant and insufficiently analyzed impacts on our community's valued tree canopy and urban forest resources.

After reviewing the documentation, we urge the Port to refrain from taking action to adopt the DNS at the conclusion of the comment period on September 11, 2025. Instead, we request that the Port conduct additional environmental analyses.

We believe that a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is warranted, with a particular focus on the potential removal and long-term reduction of mature tree cover, the impacts on urban heat, air quality, stormwater management, and local habitat. The DNS does not adequately document the scope, scale, or anticipated consequences of tree canopy loss, nor does it propose robust mitigation or restoration strategies.

Des Moines residents already bear a disproportionate burden in negative health impacts, and excessive noise from the heavy air traffic overhead. Our tree canopy helps mitigate some of these many negative impacts. We have clearly heard from many Des Moines residents their desire to preserve as much of the City's existing tree canopy as possible.

In summary, the City of Des Moines requests that the Port of Seattle not adopt the Determination of Non-Significance for the SEA Flight Corridor Management Program. We urge the Port to conduct additional environmental analysis, including a full EIS, that rigorously evaluates tree canopy impacts, provides effective mitigation, and involves the Des Moines community in the decision-making process.

We appreciate your attention to this critical issue, and we look forward to finding a way forward that values our urban forest and the wellbeing of Des Moines residents.

Sincerely,



Katherine Caffrey
City Manager
City of Des Moines, Washington

