



June 10, 1998

WASHINGTON STATE LEGISLATURE

Marc Stiles, Reporter

Seattle Times

31620 23rd Ave. S., Suite 312

Federal Way, WA 98003

Dear Mr. Stiles:

We are writing to you with the hopes of gaining your interest in reporting on a very important issue involving citizens we represent. We are also sending you a letter rather than a press release in a deliberate effort to de-politicize what has become an incredible political story for South King County. Please hear us out.

A little more than a year ago, we asked the State Auditor's Office to review the Port of Seattle's noise remedy programs after receiving numerous complaints from constituents. As a result of this investigation, the State Auditor's Office has now confirmed that the Port of Seattle violated federal grant assurance requirements. The Auditor's Office is now in the process of bringing this situation to the attention of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Congressman Adam Smith has asked the federal General Accounting Office (GAO) to investigate this matter. A copy of Smith's letter is attached.

The State Auditor's Office has confirmed that the port violated Federal Grant Assurance C.6 requirements by failing to secure required **written declarations of support from the surrounding jurisdictions of Sea-Tac Airport for its noise remedy programs**. The assurance requirement is the only law which guarantees taxpayers affected by airport impacts have a voice in the noise insulation-remedy programs funded by the FAA. This clearly has not been the case with the port.

Equally troubling is the fact that while audits conducted by the consulting firm of Deloitte and Touche repeatedly pointed out these violations, the port and its five-member Commission have failed to take corrective action. Copies of Deloitte and Touche's findings are attached.

Subsequent to its review, the State Auditor's Office has recommended that an independent mediator be appointed to resolve past and future disputes involving these programs.

To date, more than \$100 million of federal grants have been spent on the noise remedy programs to insulate homes in and around Sea-Tac Airport from the **second** runway. Under the insulation program as originally instituted, an estimated 10,000 homeowners became eligible for noise insulation in 1985. To date, the port has completed 6,412 homes. There are 2,740 homes left to be insulated with a total of 848 homes signed up on the waiting list. The target completion date is Jan. 1, 2001.

There were 3,000 homeowners eligible for the transaction assistance program which assists homeowners in selling their homes. If homeowners cannot sell their homes within a specified period of time, the port offers to purchase the home. Under this program, 272 homes have been sold and another 428 homeowners have applied.

These programs along with buyouts have already cost \$130 million and an estimated \$18 million more is needed to complete them. The public has raised doubts about where and how the money was spent and for good reason. We have recently learned that the port is in the process of re-insulating a total of 1,141 homes which were insulated before 1993. We have been told these homes are being redone due to building-code violations at an estimated cost of \$11 million. Clearly, had the cities been consulted regarding building codes and formally included in the process, many of these problems could have been avoided. Instead, we are spending \$11 million more to fix a problem while the remaining 2,700 homeowners wait for relief from the torrential storm of jet noise pounding their walls.

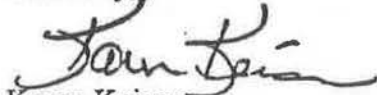
We believe that all elected officials and government agencies should be held accountable to the taxpayers who fund them. The port is no exception.

It's unfortunate that had the port obtained the required okay from local jurisdictions, much of this controversy could have been averted. Instead, we are left to unravel a legacy of zero accountability and downright sloppy management.

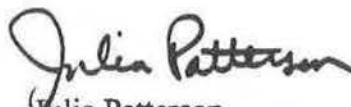
We have attempted to provide you with some basic information outlining the bare facts of this situation. This research represents years of citizens work. We believe you will agree with us that this situation deserves the attention of your newspaper.

We would be happy to meet with you in person to discuss the merits of this issue at your convenience or provide you with any additional information or contacts. We look forward to speaking with you soon.

Sincerely,



Karen Keiser
State Representative
33rd District



Julia Patterson
State Senator
33rd District