

Port of Seattle

November 21, 2016

Dear Friends,

I am Kent Palosaari, a marriage and family therapist, husband, father, and 10 year resident of the city of Seatac. I want to thank you for having the public meeting on November 1, 2016 in Seatac. It gave many people, 50 for the record, to say what they needed to say. It confirmed what I have been discovering as I have looked into the situation over the last couple of months, however, that the issues at hand go well beyond the cutting of trees around the airport. These include the following:

- *the original 1997 E.I.S. that included recommendations for 6 schools to be moved at a cost of \$2 billion, as well as further studies to determine the impact on the physical health of community residents and airport employees.
- *feeling lied to by the past Port around the intent of the 3rd runway.
- *NextGen navigation and its negative impact.
- *The amount of traffic in general.
- *the negative impact that the airport has on the local economy, especially in terms of house value, small businesses, and tax base for local education.
- *the fact that AvGas is not regulated by the Clean Air Act.
- *the airpath alterations.
- *the increasing and almost constant noise, due to take offs and landings.
- *the actual physical shaking that accompanies landings for many residents.
- *the "flight pattern Kids" whose horrific stories of diseases related to the airport go back as many as 4 generations.

As you could tell from people's testimonies that, as much as the Port wants to make this about the trees, this is a much greater problem. To put into a context that you all can relate to, in the same way that topping the trees will not satisfy the FAA in terms of using NextGen, dealing only with the trees will not be enough to satisfy the surrounding residents. That is why people will not be satisfied with the 1 million dollars that you now are offering. As I mentioned above, 2 billion dollars was suggested as a beginning point back in 1997, so 1 million will be seen as almost an insult to our intelligence. Now, you made it very clear in your mission statement that your goal is to make money, and I noticed that there was nothing mentioned in your mission statement about the health and welfare of surrounding communities. It seems that you are making billions of dollars annually for Seattle, but the average citizen down here sees very little of that money, otherwise you would think that we would have much better things like schools. Furthermore, it feels like you are profiting at the expense of the poor and under-privileged who are economically forced to live around the airport, with little regard for their health. Now, I can tell you don't wish ill upon us, but I still don't think you see this as a life and death issue. I, and many others, see this as a Flint, Michigan water issue, because of the level of toxic fine emissions particles that are in the air due to AvGas. (The problem with most testing is that it is for large particles, not fine, which allows you to reduce your overall emissions, while at the same time increasing the level of very damaging fine particles.

I'd like to give you some professional advice as a marriage and family therapist, you really need to take a different approach than what you have been to this point. Right now you are taking more of a top down, authoritarian approach, which is common in the legal/lawyer approach to governing. The problem with that is that it results in a zero sum game, in which one party feels upset. The goal needs to be more of a Win/Win, but you need to further engage the citizens here to find out what a win would be for them. As I have mentioned in earlier letters, I would

like a more round table discussion with an attitude of equality and cooperation which includes the Port, citizens, the FAA, the EPA, the airlines, business people, unions, health experts, conservationists, elected officials, *social scientists*, educators, and as few lawyers as possible. I believe that this is the right thing to do given the magnitude of the situation. I would be willing to help you in creating this summit gathering, as I plan on creating this with or without your help. I really do want to care about you, and I can tell you want to care about me, my family, and all the residents that live in this area. I look forward to further engagements with you in the future.

All the best, and the best for all,

Kent Palosaari, LMHC