

THE BRIEFING PROJECT EPISODE 18 – When Words Matter

Thank you. My name is Steve Edmiston, I'm with *The Briefing Project*, here to continue the briefing on the community impacts from overflight noise and emissions. I'll start with an announcement, which is the good news that I intend to conclude this public comment phase of the project at the next Commission meeting.

Today my comments are inspired by the pending House and Senate bills to site the new primary commercial airport. In their original form, the secret formula for these bills is this: we need another airport; and it's time to get after it. Both bills reference "*concerns regarding the environmental, health, social, and economic impacts of air traffic.*" Concerns over the environment and health were also recently cited to you as a basis to support a new airport by the 15 SCATBd cities; separately by the cities of Buriem; Des Moines; and Federal Way; and in November in *The Briefing Project's* 6th POSANC Accord.

By way of comparison, the Port's written statement today does not reference environmental or health concerns. Instead, the Port asserts there "should be alignment with the PSRC Baseline Study" – which is strange, given that the PSRC refused to include siting a new airport as part of the study landscape. Equally strange is the Port's request for alignment with a 10-year-old Long-Term Air Transport study that concludes we should protect – and I'm quoting – "the airport system we have... before we consider... new airports." All of which we might have dismissed as imprecision in today's Port statement – except the Port's words now precisely match with the new words added to the Senate Bill just one week ago - that final "recommendations must be consistent" with that same 10-year-old study. So, it is unfortunately easy to worry that the Port's words reflect an intent that is the polar opposite of the original formula of these bills.

I implore you today to take step towards improving trust and transparency with our neighbor communities – with an endorsement of the original language. You can be heroes.

And now, in lieu of my usual sign off, it is my great pleasure on behalf of *The Briefing Project* to be the first to share the news of the formation of the *League of Quiet Skies Voters*, an initiative designed to help our communities take a much greater role in the decisions that do affect our health and environment. I'm sure you'll hear more about it soon. Thank you.