



2/27/2018

Port of Seattle Commissioners:

The house and senate are right now considering a 2018 operating budget proviso to conduct a study of community and economic impacts of the Sea-Tac International Airport. This will be the first impact study performed in over 20 years. That's 20 years of growth, of additional noise and emissions over our airport communities. Then add in the aggressive new Century Plan outlined in your own SAMP.

The 1997 study found that "costs associated with these [airport] improvements are disproportionately borne by those communities immediately surrounding the airport." Nothing has changed as far as who has, who is, and who will, shoulder these burdens. Each of you – as commissioners or during your campaigns – are on record repeatedly acknowledging that our communities are unfairly burdened with the entire regions costs of the airport operations, that something must be done, and that there are significant trust issues on this subject between the communities and the Port.

The City of SeaTac has promised to commit \$250,000. The City of Des Moines has written the State of Washington in support of the proviso. We expect the other neighbor cities to follow.

No one is asking the Port of Seattle for funding. Why?

Because it is so critical – absolutely imperative – that this impact study, when complete, is perceived as an independent study. The airport communities must be able to believe that this study does not bear the fingerprints of the Port of Seattle in terms of defining its scope, or in terms of limiting the areas to be investigated.

To achieve your own stated desires to enhance trust, there must be absolute transparency around this process, so that it is clear to all that the Port did not try to shape, or steer, or skew the results, or interfere with the passage of the proviso in the first place. If you want trust, there cannot be even an appearance of behind the scenes activity.



We all saw – or at least we saw the appearance – of how the Port jumped into last year’s ultrafine particle study legislation – Port lobbyists ramped up and testifying in support, but then mysteriously the contaminants to be studied were restricted, the essential phase 2 eliminated, the Port and the FAA both have a seat on the oversight panel. This puts the Port’s fingerprints all over the study, calls into question the independence, and creates issues of mistrust. Frankly, you blew it.

We want you to publicly support this proviso and impact study. There is literally no valid reason not to, if you believe what you say – that the airport communities are so unfairly burdened. You should want this as bad as we do.

But how you show that support needs to be unique this time. We need you to commit to us – the airport neighbor communities – publicly – that you will not use lobbyists or otherwise seek to influence the creation or outcomes of this study. We need to have you, the commissioners, tell your staff and your lobbyists to stand down. And we need you to commit publicly that no effort by anyone related to the Port has been made, or will be made, to stop or shape this study. If such effort has already been made, we need you to publicly detail what has happened and how you will stop from further interfering with this vital work.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sheila Brush', written in a cursive style.

Sheila Brush

**Quiet Skies Puget Sound**

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