

PoS Commissioner's meeting, 12-15-2020, Public Comment, Bernedine Lund, resident of Federal Way, member of QSPS and volunteer for 350 Seattle Aviation Group

Hello, everyone,

It seems that the airline industry considers the only way to operate is to increase the number of flights. More airports and runways are being planned around the world. This is true even after more studies are coming out describing the harm, noise, emissions, and CO2 that is harmful to people and the environment.

The goal to greatly reduce carbon emissions in aviation by 2050, in just 30 years, is not possible without reducing the number of flights. Any other way airlines approach reducing emissions does not accomplish the drastic reductions needed. There are several strategies airlines push as solutions to emissions, such as efficiency improvements, electric and hydrogen fuels, sustainable aviation fuels like biofuels, and carbon offsets. Unfortunately these strategies will not reduce emissions enough to compensate for the growth in the aviation. The aviation industry would argue that these strategies will work, but none have been proven.

A recent article from The Washington Post on the U.N.'s 2020 "Emissions Gap" Report states that the emissions attributed to wealthiest 1% of the global population accounts for more than double those of the poorest 50%. Researchers found that changing that balance will require substantial lifestyle changes including a decrease in air travel.

Decreased air travel is probably something you and most people here cannot imagine. Over 100 years ago people probably did not imagine global flights or cell phones or video meetings. Covid 19 this year has shown us that many people can now work and meet remotely and no longer need to travel to interact. As a technology center, Seattle and SeaTac seem poised to take advantage of virtual meeting and communications and to use other modes of transportation for tourists. I really hope people will work together to evolve again away from an unsustainable method of transportation and to a more just and equitable future. Already some European countries are stopping short flights that can be done by train. More alternatives need to be developed to reduce aviation travel. As you enjoy the upcoming holidays, think about ways you can support other modes of transportation that do not harm you and the environment.