

MEDIA CONTACT: Michele M Horaney APR – 510.330.9640 Thought Leader Public Relations
Olympia, WA michele.horaney@gmail.com

STOPTHEAIRPORT * PIERCE COALITION * SAVE THE PLATEAU

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STOPTHEAIRPORT, PIERCE COALITION, SAVE THE PLATEAU TO RALLY, MEET WITH LEGISLATORS ON JANUARY 25 IN OLYMPIA

OLYMPIA - Members of StopTheAirport, Coalition Against Graham and Eatonville-Roy Airport and Save the Plateau (Enumclaw and King County) will rally on January 25 at Lobby Day at the Capitol Building in Olympia.

Group members will meet through the day with legislators involved with the proposal for a large commercial airport in either Thurston or Pierce Counties to urge them to

- 1. HELP REMOVE THE THURSTON, PIERCE COUNTY AND ENUMCLAW PLATEAU GREENFIELD SITES FROM CONSIDERATION.** There was no meaningful public input sought by the Commercial Aviation Coordinating Commission or WSDOT. The Commission also narrowed the list to recommend sites that impact military operations.
- 2. VOTE AGAINST FUNDING ANY COMMISSION OR BODY OR AGENCY THAT WOULD IDENTIFY GREENFIELD LOCATIONS OR GIVE NEW POWERS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS OVER AIRPORT SPONSORSHIP.**
- 3. REVISIT ESTIMATES FOR COMMERCIAL AND CARGO AVIATION CAPACITY NEEDS.** We challenge figures generated by the same sectors that would profit from increased air traffic and believe additional investment in existing passenger train service can reduce short flights. Additionally, expanding aviation contradicts Washington's new climate policies and state requirements to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 95% by 2050.

A report on the meetings will be released on January 26.

From 10 to 11 am that morning, members of the three groups will hold a rally on the steps of the Capitol Building to advance their cause and make a public demonstration.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS by the citizens groups:

- At the January 13th community meeting of the Coalition Against Graham and Eatonville Airports, Representatives Jake Fey and Tom Dent admitted that the Pierce and Thurston County sites were unsuitable for the construction of a new airport. They promised legislation to remove these two sites from consideration for a new airport.
- Both the Central Thurston and Pierce County greenfields intrude on military land and airspace. HB 5370 prohibits the siting of an airport "on or in the vicinity of a military installation that would be incompatible with the installation's ability to carry out its mission." Further research by Stop the Airport and Coalition group members revealed clear breaches of land-use laws and military air space interference in all three sites.

Members of StoptheAirport, Coalition against Graham and Roy Airport and Save the Plateau are united in their opposition to the siting of a greenfield airport in Thurston, Pierce, or South King Counties. They are working with advocates to preserve the environment, homes and businesses, and are speaking out to state legislators and officials on all levels to find and implement alternatives to a new airport.