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December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020

To whom it may concern:

I am writing today with regards to a portion of the King County International Airport (KCIA) Draft Master Plan. After years of work on this plan, recent changes cause great concern to The Museum of Flight (MOF) and to many in the community. To summarize:

- The plan includes a very large commercial air cargo facility bordering MOF
- Execution of this proposal could lead to real harm to MOF, the adjacent public high school, the people we serve, and the reputation of a culturally and educationally significant asset in King County
- The portion of the Master Plan pertaining to this proposal should be reevaluated

This comment is written in my capacity as President and CEO of The Museum of Flight as well as a member of the KCIA Community Roundtable. It should be noted that KCIA has been a good partner with MOF and we appreciate what we have achieved together over the years.

Of most grave concern, however, is the proposal to build out a large commercial air cargo terminal adjacent to the north and east of The Museum of Flight and to the east of Raisbeck Aviation High School, a Highline public school. We will not to argue the importance of growth in the aviation sector, nor its economic impact. We do our best to encourage it and to help create a workforce to meet the incredible demand for skilled labor and great jobs in these fields.

Yet we must acknowledge what happens on the airfield impacts MOF. In this case the impact of a discretionary KCIA decision could be very negative. The Museum of Flight is a world-class destination and arguably one of the finest museums of its type. It is also the largest non-governmental air and space museum in the world. Employing hundreds it is also a large economic driver. Yet what has been built over the past 55 years is not only a tribute and reflection of aviation in our lives. Nor is it a mere accumulation of over 4 million artifacts and objects. It is also a world-class research facility and an educational institution in its own right. Focusing on the underserved students in King County, we served over 160,000 youth in 2019. This is done not just by inspiring students but also by providing substantial pathways into careers. This includes course for high schoolers culminating in high school credit and up to 60 free college credits. All for those in most need of this opportunity.



Our work, also includes visits from over 600,000 visitors and being one of the biggest private events venues in King County. Clients from around the world, and around Boeing Field, enjoy the sanctuary of our galleries for their business events, jet deliveries, weddings, memorials, and more. All of this occurs on the southwest corner of KCIA. A high volume cargo facility bordering the Museum would likely cause significant noise, pollution, adverse road traffic, and other impacts that could significantly impact our ability to be a foremost cultural and educational facility. We enjoy being on an active airfield. It is important to the ambiance and wonder of a visit to the Museum. But an operation such as that which is being proposed could drive away so much of what has been built and is important to our community. Simply put, upon walking through the first 747 or JFK's Air Force One, you want to be able to hear your child say "Wow." Or to hear his grandmother share her experience helping build one of these magnificent machines.

Finally, we are concerned about what would be lost in the proposed area of development. General aviation is the entry point for aviation and key to industry growth. There is no current solution for the displacement of more than 75 parking slots. In addition, the ramp to the north of MOF is one of constant activity. This proposal could eliminate our ability to provide first flights for young girls at our *Women Fly* event, likely eliminate the ability to accommodate the Blue Angels for Seafair, and eliminate visiting aircraft from other Museums, Air and Rescue demonstrations, NASA, and more.

We ask that King County reconsider their adoption of the master plan, specifically with regards to the negative impacts this single proposal will have on general aviation and especially on all those that benefit from the presence of The Museum of Flight and what it has to offer. Ultimately I believe that KCIA and King County could be harmed by its adoption with this proposal intact. Thank you for your consideration and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

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cc: Caroline Whalen - Director of the Department of Executive Services, King County  
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