

Media Advisory – May 16, 2008

Contact: Christopher Schwarzen

Office: 425-388-3883

Email: Christopher.Schwarzen@snoco.org

Reardon, Sullivan oppose airline's request for Paine Field flights

A Nevada-based commercial airline has expressed interest in beginning flights to Las Vegas from Snohomish County's Paine Field, located between Everett and Mukilteo.

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon, opposed to the idea, expressed his concerns over the request Friday and has referred the matter to county legal counsel for evaluation.

"I do not support bringing commercial air service to Paine Field," Reardon said. "We will proceed cautiously and investigate all steps that might be taken to prevent it."

County Councilman Brian Sullivan, whose district includes Paine Field, also reacted strongly to the county's receipt of the letter.

"I've opposed commercial air service at Paine Field for 25 years," Sullivan said. "I will continue to work diligently on behalf of my constituents to ensure our council continues to oppose such service."

Allegiant Air, which offers flights to recreational destinations from smaller cities, has asked to negotiate with the county for service for flights. The airline's letter of interest suggests flights would be between Paine Field and Las Vegas, with the potential for additional regional locations later.

On Friday, the Snohomish County Executive Office began contacting community leaders and airport stakeholders – including the County Council, Mukilteo Mayor Joe Marine, Everett Mayor Ray Stephanson, Edmonds Mayor Gary Haakenson and various resident groups – to notify them of the letter from Allegiant.

In 2005, Reardon convened a panel to review the Mediated Role Determination (MRD) document, with the intent of clarifying what role – if any -- commercial air service could play at Paine Field.

The initial MRD document, created between 1978 and 1979, identified general and industrial aviation as the primary uses of Paine Field. It also encouraged growth of aircraft-related industries, business and corporate aviation, air taxi and commuter service. It discouraged growth beyond 1978 service levels of air cargo aviation, supplemental and charter air passenger service, large transport crew training operations and military aviation.

Paine Field occupies more than 1,300 acres of land and has three paved runways. It is home to major aeronautics companies that account for more than 30,000 jobs in the Puget Sound, including The Boeing Co., Goodrich and ATS.

###