

## Opening Statement

We have a tremendous opportunity here to do something that can make our county and city one of the cleanest and smartest in America.

Simply by saying “No” to large jet aircraft and “Yes” to rail to the new Everett Airport is an excellent solution.

We have all heard the news about the environment, airline bankruptcies, oil, climate change, sustainability and the four airlines that have left or folded in the past years from here.

So why does the Port continue to buck the trends and cater to an airline that services about 75% or more Canadian passengers when it's our communities' air, noise, and water quality that's at risk.

I also find it fascinating that the Port is marketing a Clean Ocean Marina when in fact by increasing Allegiant's presence here is blowing our communities' carbon footprint right out of the water.

The Port really needs to re-define community and the word “Green” here.

For example:

Doug Smith from the Port was quoted in the Bellingham Herald on June 20<sup>th</sup> of this year.

***The whole idea of attracting Seattle travelers to Bellingham to use our airport, I think that would be totally unacceptable to the community,” Smith said.***

So I think Mr. Smith should be asked why lower BC would be any different than Seattle's influx.

I think it is time to take and admit the loss from the purchasing of homes in the nineties. We need to question:

Why there is a sinking runway?

Why do we need an expanded parking area?

Why a new terminal?

Why a new fire station?

Why are we thinking of building and a new control tower?

All in a highly speculative market and only after Allegiant arrived.

## **Education**

The Port wants to spend millions and replace the trailers that they brought in for Western Airlines and Skybus.

My kids have been in those same type of trailers for years, so why not just keep them out at the airport for a bit longer until the Port can find a way to provide enough funding for our local schools. I would not mind seeing the Port's budget shifted around a bit.

By the way when we talk about schools, I have also asked the Port of Bellingham if they would be willing to talk to the kids in our local schools about Allegiant's impact to the environment and the economy and I have not received any calls back yet.

As far as I'm concerned Horizon, a Washington based carrier is just fine, by the way.

## **Geography**

BLI is one of the closet airports to a city center. It is surround by Wetlands, I5 and residential communities.

## **Airport There First**

Not really, especially if the Port expanded the runway and bought properties because they thought SEATAC would never have a third runway. So this is not accurate.

## **Politics**

There is no method to stop or prevent risk or impact .Barabara Brenner contacted me early on in the process and basically tried to sell me on the idea that the noise is not a problem for her. I later found out that her husband works at the airport.

## **URS Study**

URS was asked to conduct a \$225K study by the Port to help the airport understand it's surrounding. Note: They are a consulting firm that is Pro-Airport.

Slide Below:

### **What are The Uncertainties**

- - **Changes in The Canadian Dollar**
- - **New Service At Paine Field**
- **Airline Health/Price of Oil**
- - **Cost Per Enplaned Passenger**
- - **Overall Economic Downturn**
- **Canadian/US Border – Passports Required**

Where is Abbotsford?

### **Economics / Jobs**

I think the best looking building in town is that old railroad station near D Street and Holly. So if we all work hard enough, maybe we can bring that beautiful building back to life.

Rail is Sound Economics.

GM, and Boeing, has excellent engineers and I bet Americans can make the greatest rail system in the world. Maybe it's time to shift some of those FAA funds.

I don't know how many of the jobs are permanent versus fulltime supporting the airport, but there is a good chance they will disappear.

The Port clearly documents that BLI's primary passenger catchment areas are Lower BC Skagit and Snohomish Counties.

Allegiant and Horizon are very much interested in Paine Field.

WestJet has an increased presence in both Abbotsford and Vancouver.

So why do we need to jump in the mix.

A rail line from here to Everett Airport would become a new and sustainable employment corridor offering an array of new opportunities for people.

Just so our listeners know Allegiant has a history of leaving airports and when Everett becomes active, Everett will be the new Allegiant hub hands down.

Some of you may or may not know but in May of this year, WestJet announced it was starting Las Vegas flights from Abbotsford Airport this fall. They canceled this on July 15<sup>th</sup> based on the lack of demand. They have however, increased their flights to Las Vegas, Arizona, & Southern California from Vancouver. My point here is that when the timing is right they will capture the lower BC either by aggressive marketing or obviously starting service from Abbotsford.

I used Google Earth the other day and observed that there is a nice rail line already in place near the Everett Airport.

A rail line from here to Everett Airport would become the new employment corridor offering an array of new opportunities.

Just think of the possibilities by having bike trails and places of work steps away from rail station(s). Families would be able to utilize our great cities on weekends easily.

No Parking.

No TSA

No long lines

and at the same time creating a sustainable future.

Sound's too good to be true doesn't it. Well we can make this happen now. It is so important that we call all of our politicians and say enough is enough. This is what sound economics is all about.

I also add that Allegiant was quoted in an email to the Port ***we need to be sensitive to the local casinos***. What this tells me is that they are looking to capture their share of the local casino market in order to help Nevada.

Think about this, they are interested in Bremerton, Everett, & Bellingham. It's funny the interest grew in Paine Field right about the time the Tulalip Resort was being completed. It is also funny that they moved from Green Bay airport to Appleton which is closer to the casino region of Wisconsin. They have moved to Grand Island, NY also home to Casinos. This is not sustainable business it's called market share over the environment.

## **Environment**

What I could say to all of you is simply observe the next time you're at the airport.

Do some digging.

What do you see?  
What do you hear?  
What do you smell?

Or we can listen to the top scientist and researchers in the world.

Here's a brief statistic quoted from the USA TODAY dated 12/19/2006

***On a New York-to-Denver flight, a commercial jet would generate 840 to 1,660 pounds of carbon dioxide per passenger. That's about what an SUV generates in a month.***

So any theory the Port might suggest that Allegiant is helping the environment really has no weight compared to driving to SeaTac, Abbotsford, Vancouver, or my favorite, taking the train to the new Everett Airport.

Rail makes for a Sound Environment.

### **Key points / Closing**

For the young and old, we need to get the word out and we need to put convenience aside on this one because we are dealing with our quality of life not just for you and I, but for the generations to come.

Distance is what makes Bellingham, Bellingham.

The rail is there. It makes for Sound economics and makes for a Sound Environment.

We do not need to compete with other airports for the sake of the Port's balance sheet while placing our community at risk.

Again thank you.

So visit [BLInet.org](http://BLInet.org)