

Highline Forum meeting, Sept 22, 2020
Public Comment

Hello, everyone, I am Bernedine Lund, resident of Federal Way and a member of 350 Seattle aviation group and Quiet Skies Puget Sound. The following is the oral public comment I gave at the PoS Commissioner meeting earlier this afternoon.

I was at the post office last week and noticed the stamp commemorating the 50th anniversary of the moon landing, which I happened to watch live on TV. It reminded me of public comments describing of the picture of the earth taken by the astronauts – a beautiful small blue ball in the sky.

Anyone seeing that picture should realize that the earth is a closed system – not much we create on earth leaves the earth, and future generations have to live with what we produce. Pictures of the earth from last week show smoke from the West coast fires moving eastwards and then globally. While not visible, emissions from aircraft that use SeaTac (and all other airports) also spread globally.

The Port strives to be environmentally friendly by switching Sea-Tac to green energy where possible and by promoting local environmental issues. This effort applies to SeaTac specific-activities but does not include the aircraft that use the airport. The public may not be understand the difference between Sea-Tac specific-activities and those of aircraft.

The FAA uses a model for aircraft emissions that calculates fuel use and emissions for a small percentage of the aircraft flight – that for take off and landing. This model does not include the total gallons of fuel pumped, which produces the majority of GHGs from aircraft flights.

The actions of the Port and FAA can lead the public to incorrectly believe that there are few emissions from SeaTac aircraft and little global warming effect. Instead, SeaTac and other airports need to be honest with the public and show the extent of global emissions and the impact on global warming.

We all need to be responsible for the global impact of what we do, help others to understand the impacts, and take steps to protect our world.

The following quote from Oregon Aviation Watch summarizes the issue for me: "The air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat, the earth upon which we dwell and the sky overhead are part of the collective inheritance that belongs to all of us. They are a precious and treasured part of our shared humanity."