Denis Law
Mayor

City of Renton

Mayor's Office

April 18, 2013

The Honorable Adam Smith
2264 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Smith:

As you have heard in the news, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has decided to close the towers at 149 airports around the country. The FAA has told us that this decision was made in response to the budget sequestration mandated by the Budget Control Act of 2011. The Renton Municipal Airport is on the closure list.

The Renton City Council recently passed a resolution voicing its opposition to the closure of the tower at the Renton Municipal Airport. I am providing you a copy of that resolution. As you will see, it sets out some of the many reasons why the closure of this tower is not in the best interests of our region or Renton residents. The most significant issue for all of us is the issue of public safety. The mix of small aircraft with commercial and private jets using an unregulated runway and unregulated airspace (which Renton shares with SeaTac and Boeing Field) presents a unique situation and a potential for an aviation-related tragedy. For example, when jets are preparing to take off to the North (over Mercer Island), certain flights from SeaTac (those heading to Spokane) must be rerouted to avoid possible mid-air collisions. That operation is coordinated between the Renton Tower and the controllers at SeaTac. That coordination will cease without the tower at Renton.

I am asking, on behalf of the citizens we all represent, that you do whatever you can to alter the course of the FAA's decision as it relates to the closure of the tower at the Renton Municipal Airport. The closures across the country are scheduled to start on June 15, 2013. Therefore, time is of the essence.

On behalf of our citizens, thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Denis Law

Denis Law
Mayor

DL:aa

Enclosure: City of Resolution 4179

cc: Renton City Council
Jay Covington, Chief Administrative Officer
Larry Warren, City Attorney
Gregg Zimmerman, Public Works Administrator
Ryan Zulauf, Renton Municipal Airport Manager

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