



Legislation Text

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A MOTION opposing the inclusion of the King County International Airport on the list of airports designated as rural airports.

WHEREAS, the Federal Aviation Reauthorization Bill, AIR-21, contains a list of sixty-nine visual flight rules air traffic control towers proposed to be designated as rural and subject to privatization, and

WHEREAS, King County International Airport ("KCIA") has been included in that list, and

WHEREAS, KCIA is neither small nor rural and in fact does provide IFR separation for arriving and departing aircraft, and

WHEREAS, KCIA operates under a letter of agreement with the Sea-Tac tower and Seattle Terminal Radar Control, "TRACON," all of which provide the largest metropolitan area in the Northwest with the highest level of efficiency and safety, and

WHEREAS, KCIA serves the greater Seattle area as a base of operations for air cargo shipments and corporate hangars for some of the most important corporations in the United States, with more than five hundred fifty based aircraft, and

WHEREAS KCIA is the preferred landing site for Air Force One and the Blue Angels flight team during their annual visit to Seattle, and

WHEREAS, KCIA is the home to The Boeing Company's delivery facility, Boeing's Flight Test Operation for its entire line of planes and Boeing's military AWACS facility serving United States and allied air forces, and

WHEREAS, designating the KCIA tower as rural could compromise safety and efficiency in one of the

most complicated air spaces in the United States, and

WHEREAS, the rural designation of the KCIA tower may have very adverse business and employment impacts for the Boeing Company and the one hundred fifty other aviation-related businesses at KCIA and

WHEREAS, Washington state already has the second highest unemployment rate in the nation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

A. The council urges Congress and the Federal Aviation Administration, in the strongest possible terms, to remove KCIA from the list of designated rural towers to be privatized; and

B. The council further urges Congress and the Federal Aviation Administration to recognize and support the ongoing level of professionalism, service and safety that allows KCIA and Sea-Tac Airport to function in an integral way that serves the national interest as well as the citizens of King County, the state of Washington and the Northwest.