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Mr. Jerry Kilpatrick
WAMA President
Yakima Air Terminal
2400 West Washington Avenue
Yakima, WA 98903

July 10, 2007

Dear Mr. Kilpatrick:

When Sea-Tac received the 2007 WAMA internship grant, it was given to me to use toward conference attendance or other outside training that would benefit my work in the planning department. Using the grant, I attended the 79th Annual AAAE Conference and Exposition held in Washington, DC, from June 10-13th. The goal of this experience was to compliment the projects I am currently working on at Sea-Tac and gain exposure to new topics in the aviation industry.

During the conference, I had the opportunity to attend several lecture sessions, and I met industry representatives at the exhibition hall and throughout the conference. The lecture sessions I attended pertained to air cargo screening, airport master planning, flight route determination, and airport management succession planning. The air cargo seminar was particularly interesting to me due to my involvement with the air-cargo strategy group at Sea-Tac. Similarly, and the master planning panel was fascinating in the context of my own intern work in aviation planning.

I also had the opportunity to network with professionals from other airports and learn about the other facets of the industry that I do not encounter in my planning work. Two of the keynote speakers at the conference were James Oberstar, the chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, and Bill Diffenderffer, the CEO of Skybus, who elaborated on Skybus' business model and his vision for the airline. I use a program called the Official Airline Guide, produced by Data Base Products, and during the conference, I met with the sales manager in the exhibition hall and discussed my use of the product and the new programs his company is developing for airline schedule analysis. Additionally, I had the opportunity to meet dozens of airport directors and managers, as well as other students, during the conference.

Attending the AAAE conference has increased my interest in the aviation industry substantially. I gained new knowledge from the educational sessions and increased my awareness of the industry as a whole from interacting with other aviation professionals. Sea-Tac does not budget for interns to attend conferences; without the WAMA grant, I would not have been able to have this experience.

Sincerely,

Jessica Sanford
Graduate Intern, Aviation Planning