

*(This is a copy and paste of an email sent to County Council members 10/25/2014)*

**From:** Michael E. Thompson [<mailto:avstarair@att.net>]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 25, 2014 1:58 PM  
**To:** 'Jim McCune'; 'droach@co.pierce.wa.us'  
**Cc:** 'sflemmi@co.pierce.wa.us'  
**Subject:** Restrictions to fair commerce

Gentlemen;

I write you today to ask for your help. Mr. McCune, you are the councilman that represents the district in which I reside, and Mr. Roach, you are the councilman for the district in which my place of business is located. Mr. Flemming, you are included as you represent the district that Tacoma Narrows Airport is in, that also has the same policies and management as my home airport, therefore the same issues to be dealt with.

My business, AVSTAR Aircraft of Washington, Inc., has been located at Pierce County Airport / Thun Field for nearly 20 years. During this period, like many small businesses, we have had the ups and downs of the economy. Never has my business be the largest employer on the airport, but I feel we have made a substantial impact to the community by being an employer and taxpayer. My business brings in customers from all over the western United States, as well as Canada. The dollars these fine folks spend in our community should not be discounted in any fashion.

To be brief; approximately two years back, I decided to make an investment. This investment came in the form of a new building on the airport in which to house AVSTAR. We moved in officially the beginning of this month. However, this past August, a new 24-hour security mandate was applied to the airport. This was applied with such recklessness that the basic principles of securing the airport are not intact. In addition, placement of the gates – although pre-existing due to previous 12-hour security measures – now impose a restriction to my customers abilities to freely get to my location. Additionally, one of the draws of this airport has been the ability of potential consumers to be able to visit, without restriction.

That ability remains intact for two of my competitors, and I must say, this has placed an unfair advantage for them over AVSTAR.

In attempting to discuss this with Deb Wallace, airport and ferry administrator, she has flatly stated it is not open to debate.

I wrote to her supervisor, Brian Ziegler, with my concerns; he failed to provide any direct response to the issues.

I would like to invite you to visit the airport, see for yourselves the truth I tell you. We can meet and I will share with you my speaking notes from the last Thun Field Advisory Commission meeting (incidentally, I am a member of the TFAC), as well as the written correspondence I have gathered on this subject. If you are unavailable for a meeting, I would be happy to forward this information via email.

Something needs to be done, and I am trusting that the three of you are willing to help find a return to some form of normalcy to this portion of the county government.

Thank you for considering my thoughts.

Regards,

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