

**Verified Statement of the Applicant Principal in Support of the Extension Application
TC-181008**

I, RICHARD E. ASCHE, President and Founder/Owner of Bremerton-Kitsap Airporter, Inc., am submitting the below statement in support of our efforts to add a single scheduled stop at the Holiday Inn Express, Lakewood, to our longstanding service of nearly forty years between Kitsap and Pierce Counties and Seattle-Tacoma International Airport.

As the Commission is well aware, Bremerton-Kitsap Airporter, Inc. (“BKA”) has a special relationship with and service history to the United States Military, including the Bremerton Naval Shipyard, the Bangor Naval Submarine Base at Bangor, Keyport Torpedo Station and the United States Naval Hospital near the Puget Sound Naval Station, Bremerton. Service to all military installations except Bangor Submarine Base was immediately halted following 9/11 and then resumed on a very changed basis. Due to increasingly stringent restrictions on accessing military bases post 9/11, in the past year Bremerton-Kitsap Airporter was actually forced to discontinue its service at Naval Submarine Base Bangor because of increased security restrictions and physical vehicular barriers placed at all facility gates. As a result, we have diverted all Bangor passengers to alternate service locations near the Keyport Junction and the Silverdale Hotel which are close to the base with significant success. However, traffic counts have decreased, due to physical barriers for large busses and security measures which particularly hinder access by vehicles transporting civilians.

These types of increasingly restrictive access and security protocols have also arisen with increasing frequency at Joint Base Lewis McChord (“JBLM”) in Pierce County, which has significantly impacted passenger accessibility at JBLM. For instance, all BKA drivers must be prescreened and all individual passenger military identifications are checked upon entry to the base. As a result of these delays and restrictions, passenger counts at JBLM have also been substantially reduced, thus prompting an increasing focus on off-base service locations in order to more completely serve the traveling public.

The identification of the Holiday Inn Express and service to this location which is the closest off-base commercial hotel site, in our belief, would greatly assist the free-flow passenger movements in the JBLM area. Moreover, adding four additional daily scheduled service runs coupled with our very economic scheduled service fares should not only mitigate the increasing difficulty of access to JBLM, but improve customer service options to and from SeaTac Airport from this critical military base operating in Pierce County. JBLM personnel have actively supported the concept of our expanded operations at JBLM. Indeed, they have offered BKA an office and garage to house vehicles contiguous to a carwash and gasoline station and afforded designated customer parking at the current four on-base locations.

The Holiday Inn Express in Lakewood is a spillover lodging site for overflow guests at both Evergreen Lodges at JBLM. Its proximity to the JBLM McChord gate is a tremendous benefit and convenience to the thousands of military and civilian employees working on the base and the surrounding Lakewood area.

The Holiday Inn Express would be the last stop on our northbound Sea-Tac Airport route on I-5 and, correspondingly, the first stop on our southbound departures from Sea-Tac and would not be impacted by the ensuing access restrictions at the JBLM McChord gate.

Again, should this application be granted, BKA proposes to offer 13 daily runs versus its current 9 daily runs serving the JBLM area. Our objector's schedule is determined by the passenger, not widely publicized to the public and is essentially door-to-door. BKA's is and will be a scheduled service available to anyone at advertised times and fares for each of the 13 daily runs. Indeed, upon submitting this application, I anonymously contacted Capital Airporter to ask what their fare for a single passenger from the Lakewood Holiday Inn Express to SeaTac Airport was and was told it was \$47. In contrast, BKA's current fare for a single passenger is \$20. In using Uber and Lyft apps it appears their fares from SeaTac to the Lakewood Holiday Inn Express are approximately in the \$45-50 range.

Finally, we would note that the Lakewood JBLM area is fast-growing and indeed the population of Lakewood has expanded by approximately 5% from 2010-2017. BKA is proposing to offer a service schedule that will be more convenient than current available service, more affordable than current available service and clearly will offer a benefit and convenience to the traveling public which is exactly what the Commission's recent rule revisions seek to foster.

VERIFICATION

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I understand that this information is being given as the basis for a grant of operating authority by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, an agency of the state of Washington. I certify or declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of Washington that the information contained in this statement is true and correct.

Richard E. Asche

Richard E. Asche

March 8, 2019

PRINT NAME

SIGNATURE

DATE