



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Aviation
Administration**

Office of the Administrator

800 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20591

June 4, 2021

The Honorable Marilyn Strickland
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Strickland:

Thank you for your March 12 letter about making the OYO Hotel Olympia - Tumwater available for permanent residential use for persons experiencing homelessness. The hotel is located on property owned by the Port of Olympia, the airport sponsor of the Olympia Regional Airport, and is within 1.5 miles of the airport. We understand the complexity of finding accommodations for persons who are homeless, and thank you for seeking a solution to this critical issue.

As you stated in your letter, allowing residential use on property conveyed by the Federal Government for airport purposes may require a statutory change. The current Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Airport Grant Assurances, Grant Assurance 21, *Compatible Land Use* (title 49 *United States Code* (U.S.C.), section 47107(a)(10)), requires grant recipients to “take appropriate action...to restrict the use of land adjacent to or in the immediate vicinity of the airport to activities and purposes compatible with normal airport operations.”¹ Additionally, title 49 U.S.C., section 47141(b)(1), requires that a grant recipient must have authority to plan and adopt land use control measures. Generally, residential use on or near airport property is incompatible with airport operations due to the impact of aircraft noise, and, in some cases, for reasons of safety.


At this time, the FAA has not received sufficient information from the airport sponsor to support this request. Without further information, the FAA cannot support the Port of Olympia’s proposal to permit permanent residential on-airport use of the OYO Hotel Olympia - Tumwater. One option for the airport sponsor to consider is a release of this land from its use as airport property.

In determining guidance regarding the release of airport property, the FAA would need to review the future airport development planning, confirm the property is not located within the 65 decibel day/night average sound level contour, and confirm that its release would not materially impact the safe and efficient operation of aircraft at, to, or from the airport. The FAA would then contact the airport sponsor on your behalf to determine if they are willing to pursue a release, so that the hotel could be used for residential housing while following FAA guidance or grant obligations.

¹ https://www.faa.gov/airports/aip/grant_assurances/

If I can be of further assistance, please contact me or the Office of Government and Industry Affairs at (202) 267-3277.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Dickson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "S" and "D".

Steve Dickson
Administrator