

>>> Ann Alton <adagiobob@optimum.net> 2/1/2011 1:19 PM >>>

I'm also attaching the following in case it's easier to read.

Feb. 2, 2011

Dear Members of the City Council :

I have never written a letter like this before, but I am very concerned about the airport expansion for a number of reasons. I cannot attend the meeting on Thursday so am writing you now.

I think the environmental and health impacts are very significant, and I am amazed that there has been no Environmental Impact Statement. The times I have heard a jet land are always memorable because of the very loud noise and strong smell of jet fuel. The fact that the environmental impact on some of the rare animal and plant life has not been looked into is especially important. Caspersen Beach and the neighboring beaches have a unique ecosystem that includes some very rare plants and animals. On a recent nature walk, I asked the guide if there were any similar environments to Caspersen that I might visit. He could only suggest Lover's Key.

In an era when Floridians are encouraged to reduce their lawns because of the pollution of gasoline mowers and lawn treatments, it's ironic that the increased carbon footprints of jets planes would be encouraged.

The health impact of increased jet fumes is also an important issue for this primarily elderly community. I'm not a senior citizen yet, but my asthma is worse when the air is full of fumes from the airport (across the road from us), so I can only sympathize with those who have even greater respiratory and circulatory problems.

The fact that the expanded airport plan was not presented to the community, especially those of us in Gulf Shores, is very disturbing. The idea of removing homes not only hurts those who would have to move, but also those who remain (not reimbursed), who have to live in a noisier, dirtier, and smellier, environment. We hope to live in our home for many years, but the lower home values caused by the expansion would severely impact those who must sell.

I am not opposed to the current airport size. Most of the planes are small. What concerns me is that other than some people who hold leases on the property, I do not understand who would profit from airport expansion. Expanding the airport is like shooting oneself in the foot. The relatively peaceful and quiet allure of this beautiful area would be gone forever, just so some millionaires can park their jets (possibly saving themselves money if Venice offers cheaper jet fuel, etc).

I urge you to keep the airport at its current size.

Sincerely yours,

Terese Ann Alton

300 Shore Road, Venice FL 34285

Cell: 518-524-4702

I can be reached at adagiobob@optimum.net.