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### **Governor Gregoire Names Aerospace Convergence Zone in Snohomish County**

**Everett, October 1, 2007** -- Governor Christine Gregoire announced today the designation of an Innovation Partnership Zone in western Snohomish County. This designation gives the area surrounding Snohomish County Airport/Paine Field access to targeted state funding and other resources. This Zone, named the Aerospace Convergence Zone, will encourage research into new materials and processes for the manufacturing of aircraft.

Key goals of the Aerospace Convergence Zone include developing resources for aerospace research, technology transfer, and commercialization capacity; implementing a coordinated strategy for attraction, retention, and expansion of aerospace businesses; and increasing students in industry-related training programs.

Workforce Development Council Snohomish County (WDCSC) applied for the Innovation Partnership Zone designation on behalf of a broad-based coalition of entities that make up the Snohomish County 2010 Blueprint Partnership, established in 2003 under the guidance of Executive Aaron Reardon. Key partners include Aerospace Futures Alliance, Future of Flight Aviation Center & Boeing Tours, Snohomish County Economic Development Council, and Everett and Edmonds Community Colleges.

Governor Gregoire named eleven zones across the state of Washington as part of a new economic development strategy that designates geographic areas and research-dependent global industries for targeted resources and support.

#### **Workforce Development Council Snohomish County**

WDCSC invests government and private funding to continuously increase the global competitiveness and prosperity of county workforce and businesses, fill current and emerging jobs, and provide full employment. Investments are made through effective business, labor, community-based, educational, and service provider organizations for the opportunity, economic well-being, and benefit of our entire community.

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