

Dear Mr. Swecker,

I am writing to you on behalf of Kalmiopsis Audubon Society, an organization with 170 members in Curry County. Please include this letter in the record of the April 28 Aviation Board meeting.

Our organization is aware of interest by at least one Curry County commissioner to gain county authority and ownership of the Cape Blanco Airport.

We believe that any action to transfer state authority or ownership would be a serious mistake. The airport is important to our county and to the state as an emergency airport, and the county lacks the resources and capability to dependably or adequately maintain the site. For the county to simply meet its current budget obligations is an annual challenge, many county programs have been cut or reduced, and serious discussions are constantly being held regarding both further cuts of essential functions, and even of the possibilities of the county's financial default. Assuming responsibility for the airport would only worsen the situation, and even basic maintenance of the airport would be in jeopardy.

We are also aware of county commissioners' interest in developing the airport and nearby sites. These plans could impact the functioning of the airport and conceivably involve changes such as accessing properties by crossing the runway. Until the commissioners' plans are made public and a full review of their effects on the airport can be assessed, we believe any consideration of a transfer of responsibilities would be premature.

Please inform us of any considerations or further discussions that are relevant to this topic.

Sincerely,

Ann Vileisis

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