

May 26, 2026

Public testimony for the June 4, 2026 meeting of the ODAV Board.

My name is Gary Veatch. I live in Portland and am a pilot and aircraft owner. I belong to the AOPA, EAA, and RAF aviation organizations. For the past 7 years I have volunteered at Cascade Locks Airport doing reports, clean-up, maintenance, and repair.

The state-owned Cascade Locks Airport has a serious problem. Hangars and other aviation infrastructure are prohibited, and airport users landing and taking off could potentially receive local code violations. This is because the airport is erroneously zoned as PUBLIC, a category intended for public parks. As such, the airport cannot be financially self-sufficient, airport utilization is very limited, and it is vulnerable to closure and conversion to so-called "better uses". As the only public airport in the weather-prone Columbia River Gorge between Troutdale and Hood River, the Cascade Locks Airport is an important safety airport and has had multiple "saves".

Because the Board and the Oregon Department of Aviation are the property owner, they have the authority and responsibility to engage the City of Cascade Locks in correcting this serious zoning error and protecting the airport. We all share a commitment to aviation safety and community asset.