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Public Comment Topic	In support of Pacific City Airport's continued funding

Public Comment

Good day - thank you for the opportunity to write on behalf of Pacific City Airport, and the group "Friends of Pacific City Airport".

I am a non-local pilot who has visited Pacific City by private aircraft. The value of this airport can simply not be overstated. Airports much like Pacific City all over the country are at risk of closure because their local governments simply do not understand their value to the surrounding community and economy. Small airports, like Pacific City, offer an invaluable means for safety, commerce, and tourism for a small community like Pacific City. In the face of ever increasing natural disasters, Pacific City Airport remains a beacon for the city, and a connection to the outside world in the event of road closures due to any number of environmental issues that could prevent access by road.

Safety notwithstanding, were it not for Pacific City Airport, I would never have visited this small community with my family during vacation, or spent money in the community at the local businesses, including hotels, restaurants, and stores.

I understand that setback requirements are a large part of the argument for denying funding to help keep this airport open. Unfortunately, the goal post has been moved here, almost literally. The buildings and homes along the runway were built when the rules were simply not the same as they are now; denying funding because of a problem that has no simple solution would be a severe disservice to the community and home owners, unfairly reducing their property values for a rule change for which they did not have any say.

If the state of Oregon moves to keep Pacific City Airport funded and improved, they will be leaders in the charge in supporting small airports and the value they bring everywhere in the United States; an example by which other municipalities, counties, and states should take note and follow. Please reconsider, and allow Pacific City Airport to continue long into the future.

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