



601 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Suite 250
Washington, D.C. 20004

T. 202-509-9670
www.aopa.org

August 27, 2026

Oregon State Aviation Board
c/o Oregon Department of Aviation
3040 25th Street SE
Salem, OR 97302

TRANSMITTED VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL TO: mail.aviation@ODAV.oregon.gov

**RE: Pacific City State Airport (PFC) / Oregon State Airport System –
Concerns/Recommendations**

Chair Stephens and Members of the Oregon State Aviation Board:

On behalf of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA), the world's largest general aviation membership organization, I respectfully urge the Board to move forward with the previously approved approximately \$1.5 million investment package for Pacific City State Airport (PFC).

The proposed drainage improvements, apron expansion, and emergency access road are important infrastructure investments that advance airport safety, operational resiliency, emergency preparedness, and the long-term public value of this important state asset. These improvements were previously identified as priorities and, in our view, continue to represent prudent investments in the future of both Pacific City State Airport and the community it serves.

AOPA recognizes and appreciates the difficult budgetary environment currently facing the Oregon Department of Aviation (ODAV). However, deferring critical infrastructure projects often increases future costs, reduces operational flexibility, and can place important public benefits at risk. Pacific City State Airport provides value that extends beyond aviation, including emergency access capability, support for public safety operations, economic activity, visitor access, and transportation resiliency for Oregon's coast.

As the Board considers the future of PFC, AOPA also wishes to reiterate its willingness to assist ODAV, Tillamook County, and other local stakeholders in advancing airport-compatible land use planning around the airport. Oregon law and planning regulations recognize the importance of protecting airports from incompatible development, and compatible land use planning remains one of the most effective long-term tools for preserving airport utility while also protecting surrounding communities. If it has not already occurred, I encourage ODAV to coordinate with the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD), and any other appropriate agencies or stakeholders, to ensure that Tillamook County has received formal notice regarding its responsibilities under Oregon law to incorporate applicable airport-compatible land use requirements, policies, and planning principles into its comprehensive plan and development code.

Pacific City State Airport (PFC) / Oregon State Airport System – Concerns/Recommendations

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Regardless of an airport's federal grant status, several widely accepted airport compatibility principles consistently guide planning efforts throughout the United States:

- Protect approach and departure corridors.
- Protect people and property from unnecessary aircraft-risk exposure.
- Avoid introducing noise-sensitive land uses into active flight paths.
- Preserve opportunities for future airport development and operational flexibility.
- Minimize wildlife attractants in proximity to aviation activities.
- Prevent the creation of airspace obstructions.
- Encourage lower-density development in the most sensitive operational areas.
- Recognize airports as long-term transportation and emergency-response infrastructure assets.

AOPA would welcome an opportunity to work collaboratively with ODAV and local officials to support these objectives in a manner that respects both community interests and aviation needs.

In addition to concerns specific to Pacific City, my conversations with stakeholders from multiple Oregon state-owned airports revealed a recurring theme regarding stakeholder engagement. While the specific issues vary from airport to airport, many users, tenants, volunteers, and community stakeholders expressed concerns regarding communication, responsiveness, transparency, and opportunities for meaningful participation in decisions affecting their airports.

Several stakeholders reported difficulty obtaining timely responses to inquiries, limited engagement before significant decisions were made, and challenges identifying constructive pathways to partner with ODAV on airport improvement initiatives. At the same time, many of these individuals expressed a sincere desire to work collaboratively with the Department and contribute their time, expertise, and resources toward improving Oregon's state airport system.

Accordingly, AOPA respectfully encourages the Board to consider initiatives that would strengthen stakeholder engagement throughout the state airport system, including:

- Increased communication and outreach regarding major airport decisions.
- More regular engagement with local airport stakeholders and tenant groups.
- Expanded opportunities for volunteer and public-private partnerships.
- Streamlined mechanisms for entering into cooperative agreements and memoranda of understanding.
- Continued efforts to improve responsiveness and transparency in stakeholder communications.

We believe such measures would help strengthen relationships, build trust, and leverage the considerable knowledge and commitment that already exists within Oregon's aviation community.

**Pacific City State Airport (PFC) / Oregon State Airport System –
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Ultimately, AOPA respectfully requests that the Board:

- Move forward with the previously approved funding package for Pacific City State Airport.
- Continue efforts to protect the long-term viability of PFC through compatible land use planning and community engagement.
- Strengthen stakeholder outreach, communication, and partnership opportunities across Oregon's state airport system.

AOPA stands ready to assist the Board, ODAV, local governments, airport stakeholders, tenants, and surrounding communities in advancing these objectives. We appreciate your consideration and your continued service to Oregon aviation.

Please feel free to contact me if AOPA can be of assistance regarding Pacific City State Airport or any other matters affecting general aviation in Oregon. I can be reached at email: brad.schuster@aopa.org or by phone: 202-851-7502.

Respectfully Submitted,



Brad Schuster, C.M.
Northwest Mountain Region Manager
Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association

Cc:
ODAV Director
ODAV State Airports Manager

Name	Brad Schuster
Group/Organization	AOPA
Address	Washington, DC 20004
Email	bradschuster@aopa.org
Phone	12028517502
Public Comment Topic	Pacific City State Airport Funding / ODAV Opportunities for Improvement

Public Comment

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Respectfully Submitted

Brad Schuster, C.M.
AOPA Northwest Mountain Region Manager

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and any supporting materials
here:**

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