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Public Comment Topic	Reduction is funding/services for ODA airports
Public Comment	I am writing to ask the Oregon Department of Aviation to preserve Pacific City State Airport and maintain adequate support for Oregon's network of small state-owned airports. These facilities are important public assets that should not be viewed solely in terms of their day-to-day operating costs. They provide transportation access, support local communities, and serve as valuable infrastructure during emergencies. ODA should maintain essential airport services and safety improvements, follow through on previously committed airport projects, and seek meaningful input from pilots, airport users, and surrounding communities before making decisions that could reduce services or threaten an airport's future. Rather than reducing support for these airports, I encourage the state to pursue a sustainable long-term plan for maintaining them. That should include exploring partnerships with local aviation groups, volunteers, businesses, and communities that may be willing to contribute time or resources to help control costs. Small airports such as Pacific City and Joseph can also provide important access for emergency response, evacuations, search and rescue, wildfire operations, and aircraft needing an alternate place to land. Once this infrastructure is closed or lost to development, it may never be available again. Oregon should protect these airports now so they remain available when the public needs them most.
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