

From: [Dima Kukushkin](#)
To: [Oregon Department of Aviation](#)
Subject: In support of KPFC airport
Date: Monday, September 21, 2026 3:28:33 PM

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To the Oregon Department of Aviation Board,

I'm writing to urge you to keep the SOAR funding in place for the repairs and safety improvements at Pacific City State Airport (KPFC).

I have been flying into KPFC from my home base at 7S3 for more than 15 years. In that time it has become one of my favorite places to fly in the state, and I am far from alone in that. Today I am a certificated flight instructor, and I regularly bring students across to Pacific City for practice — it's an excellent training environment, and the experience of flying to the coast is exactly the kind of real-world flying that turns a student into a confident, capable pilot.

KPFC also does something that few airports can: it makes people fall in love with aviation. I have taken a number of people up for their first introductory flight, and several of them got hooked on flying after we landed at Pacific City — walked to the beach, had lunch at one of the local restaurants, and saw what general aviation actually makes possible. That direct access to the beach and the town is rare. It's a big part of what makes KPFC one of the best beach airports in Oregon, and it brings pilots, students, and their spending into the local community.

I want to speak directly to the concern that the airport is "overly encroached" and unsafe. As a flight instructor who operates there regularly and brings students in, I can tell you it is safely usable. The homes around the field were built when the State's development setback was 100 feet from the centerline, and Tillamook County recognizes that pre-existing 100-foot setback. The airport shouldn't be penalized — or lose critical repair funding — because the County and the State disagree over a 100-foot versus 125-foot setback. Pulling the SOAR money over a land-use dispute punishes the pilots, the community, and the emergency and Coast Guard operations that rely on this field, none of whom created that dispute.

The proposed work — fixing the drainage system, building a proper access road so emergency vehicles no longer have to cross private property, and improving aircraft parking — directly improves safety. Delaying it also risks losing the window before FEMA flood plain rules make the work far harder and more expensive to complete.

Pacific City State Airport is a genuine transportation and emergency-response asset for a coastal community, and it is a working, well-loved airport for pilots and flight training. It is worth the investment. I respectfully ask the Board to keep the \$1.375 million in SOAR funding committed to KPFC.

Thank you for your time and for your service to Oregon aviation.

Dmitry Kukushkin CFII



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Public Comment Topic	KPFC airport funding

Public Comment

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Dmitry Kukushkin CFII



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