

To: Oregon Department of Aviation

Subject: Request to Preserve, Repair, and Continue Operating Pacific City Airport

Dear Oregon Department of Aviation Officials,

My name is Robert Burson, and I respectfully urge the State of Oregon to preserve, repair, and continue operating Pacific City Airport.

I first came to Pacific City in 1967, when I was nine years old. I am now a private pilot and have flown in and out of Pacific City Airport for the past 19 years. As an AIRO volunteer, I have invested substantial time and effort in supporting the airport. During the State's previous effort to close or sell the airport, I was, for several years, the only person mowing the grass.

Pacific City Airport is more than a landing strip; it is an important part of the community's history. Aircraft first began landing at this location in the 1920s, when the site was a mowed cow pasture. Eleven local families donated the land with the understanding that it would be used as an airport in perpetuity. That legacy should be honored.

For generations, Pacific City Airport has served as a valued coastal general aviation asset. Its significance has been recognized beyond the local community, including in a recent FAA Safety Briefing magazine feature that highlighted the airport as a national treasure. The airport supports pilots, visitors, local businesses, emergency access, and the broader coastal community.

For too long, however, the Oregon Department of Aviation has neglected the airport and the surrounding community. Most urgently, the airport's drainage system has been broken for decades. The resulting standing and pooling water creates a safety concern and contributes to overgrown grass and increased wildlife activity. These conditions make maintenance more difficult, increase the burden placed on volunteers, and undermine safe airport operations. Repairing the drainage system must be a priority.

The approximately \$1.375 million in SOAR funding should be dedicated to repairing the airport's drainage system and addressing the conditions that have been allowed to persist for far too long. This investment is necessary to restore safe, reliable airport operations and protect this historic public asset for future generations.

There is a committed group of local volunteers prepared to care for and support the airport if the State is unable or unwilling to provide the necessary level of ongoing maintenance.

The Pacific City community values this airport deeply and is ready to work constructively with the State to ensure it remains safe, functional, and accessible.

I respectfully ask the Oregon Department of Aviation to honor the commitment made by the families who donated this land, prioritize the drainage repairs, responsibly use the available SOAR funding, and affirm its long-term commitment to Pacific City Airport.

Sincerely,

Robert Burson and Lisa Burson

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"For once you have tasted flight you will walk the earth with your eyes turned skywards, for there you have been and there you will long to return."Leonardo Da Vinci

Cheers...Rob



Those who beat their guns into plows, will plow for those who don't !!