

From: [Scott](#)
To: [Oregon Department of Aviation](#)
Subject: Please Preserve KPFC SOAR Safety Funding
Date: Saturday, September 26, 2026 1:26:53 PM

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Dear ODAV Board and Staff,

I understand ODAV is facing difficult budget decisions. However, I urge you not to divert funds designated for KPFC safety improvements to address the agency's broader budget shortfall.

KPFC's safety has long depended on a partnership between ODAV and the local aviation community. For years, ODAV provided limited routine maintenance, including mowing only once or twice annually. Since 2018, Friends of KPFC and local volunteers have worked alongside the agency to fill critical gaps.

Our volunteers have:

- Held eight annual airport work parties, beginning with 50 volunteers who removed 11 truckloads of debris and vegetation in 2018—an estimated \$50,000+ in donated labor.
- Provided and maintained webcams and weather-station equipment, including replacements when ODAV equipment failed.
- Replaced damaged windsocks when timely replacement was necessary.
- Monitored seasonal flooding and cleared drainage areas.
- Mowed the airport regularly when conditions permit.
- Monitored the airport for hazards and assisted visiting pilots.
- Provided pilots with current airport-condition information through our website and social media.

This isn't simply volunteer beautification. These efforts directly support aviation safety.

The MOU between ODAV and Friends of KPFC recognized that KPFC presents unique challenges and that keeping it safe requires a cooperative effort. Friends of KPFC has consistently honored its side of that partnership.

KPFC is a small general-aviation airport with significant limitations. There is no runway lighting or IFR weather system, and the runway cannot accommodate large aircraft. ODAV itself identifies KPFC as a warning airport and advises pilots to use caution. Those limitations make basic safety measures—windsocks, weather information, vegetation control, drainage, and hazard monitoring—all the more important.

After years of substantial community investment in KPFC, it is difficult to understand why funds intended for its safety should now be redirected elsewhere. It seems contra-indicated that given ODAV's commitment to safety that clawing back pre-approved SOAR funds designated to address safety issues makes sense. I understand the State Airport Manager has concerns about the Tillamook County zoning action creating a possible incursion to the airport but fail to see why SOAR funds would be redirected elsewhere instead of addressing the stated and recognized safety needs at KPFC. Please do not allow SOAR funds to become a bargaining chip to influence the county's zoning practice.

Past practice has demonstrated coordination between ODAV and local government entities in Pacific City. For example, there is a water pump station on the NW corner of KPFC that seems to be an incursion onto the runway.

With this in mind ODAV must have approved of this building's location. The Friends of Pacific City State Airport took the lead to address safety and runway clearance concerns posed by the fence surrounding the pump station. The Friends of KPFC get it! However, a zoning issue between ODAV and Tillamook County should not stand in the way of making KPFC as safe as possible for General Aviation.

Please preserve the funds designated for KPFC and honor the commitments made through the ODAV/Friends of KPFC partnership. This a very time-sensitive matter as I'm sure you are aware. If the SOAR designated and approved projects are not instituted before 2027, new FEMA regulations may make it impossible to move forward with these safety objectives.

I am asking ODAV to continue working with us in a timely manner — not to abandon a partnership that has made KPFC safer and has saved the agency substantial public resources.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Scott Lane
Volunteer Coordinator
Friends of KPFC

Sent from my iPad