From: John Chlopek
To: Oregon Department of Aviation
Subject: Joseph State Airport
Date: Thursday, October 29, 2026 7:02:52 AM

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October 27, 1026

John Chlopek
[redacted]
Lostine, OR 97857

Oregon Department of Aviation

Re: Joseph State Airport

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to express my concerns about the situation at the Joseph State Airport. For many decades, the Joseph State airport has been a critical fuel stop for aviators traveling through our area. It is an important fuel stop for those transiting the Idaho mountains, both east- and west-bound. It is also a very important link for emergency services for the citizens of Wallowa County.

General aviation is a very important part of the Wallowa County community. We have a very high percentage of aircraft owners and operators in our valley. The airport is often a base for firefighting aircraft which can be critical in defending against wildfires. The Joseph State Airport Fly-In every year brings in huge dollars to the community and supports the aviation curriculum at the local high school. It is not acceptable for the Joseph State Airport to be without the ability to fuel aircraft.

The community here is extremely willing to do whatever it takes to keep fuel available at the Joseph Airport. I personally would be willing to volunteer in some capacity to keep this airport viable.

Sincerely,

John Chlopek
503-810-7439
Board Member, Wallowa County Pilots Association
Board Member, Wallowa Resources

John Chlopek
Riverland Homes Inc.
503-810-7690