28 October 2026

Dear Chair and ODAV Board Members,

I am a corporate pilot and aircraft owner, with my aircraft hangared at Joseph State Airport, which is arguably one of Oregon's most beautiful airports! I have recently agreed to instruct for the Chief Joseph Flyers which has been flying since 1946!

I am deeply concerned by the lack of fuel availability at the airport. Too many airports are under threat of closure and a reduction in services is often the first step. Because Joseph Airport serves as a final refueling stop for aircraft headed East into the Frank Church wilderness, many pilots stop here for fuel or plan to stop here upon returning from the dozens of beautiful remote backcountry strips right in our backyard.

As an aircraft owner here at Joseph, every flight requires stopping somewhere else for fuel, which costs time and money, and increases risk every time I want to fly my plane.

As an instructor for the local flying club, this lack of fuel service will increase the cost for every student and pilot flying out of Joseph. For most people, earning a pilot's license is a lifetime achievement, whether they continue as professional pilots or simply fly a few times a year to share the joy and freedom of flying a small GA aircraft with friends and family. The ODAV should do everything it can to increase the number of pilots flying and remove barriers to flying rather than add to them.

I have attended several meetings and heard some explanations from the ODAV but they don't really add up. The frustration comes from not having a clear understanding of why the fuel has actually stopped and what it would take to reinstate the service.

Additionally, there is uncertainty regarding how the airport will be maintained, specifically with snow removal and mowing. There is a cadre of willing volunteers. There are also many qualified and willing individuals who would apply for this seasonal job, yet none have ever been flown on the jobs website. As a snow cat, snow blower and heavy equipment operator for many years I would be happy to apply for this position to help guarantee the operability of our airport for life saving Medevac access for our community in the winter months, as well as keeping the airport beautiful in the spring and summer.

Please consider how this lack of fuel service affects a small, tight-knit flying community such as ours, which hosts an annual fly-in and supports a small but historic flying club and the opportunity for young people (and old!) to pursue their dreams of aviation.

Thank you for time and effort.

Regards,

Kevin Thompson