October 29, 2026

Louis Perry
62778 Prairie Creek Rd
Joseph, OR 97846

Oregon Department of Aviation
Re: Joseph State Airport

To Whom it May Concern:

I am a tenant at the Joseph State Airport and I am writing today to express my concern with what seems like a lack of interest on the part of the ODA to keep the airport fully functional. I am well aware of the budget challenges that every state agency faces, but it seems to us out here that we are getting ignored mostly because we are furthest from Salem.

The fuel situation is one concern. It appears that it could be remedied relatively easily by either letting a private operator sell fuel from the existing tank, or resuming sales by the state and letting trained volunteers manage inspections and filter changes as necessary. The lack of fuel is a serious safety issue not only for those of us based on the field that now have to fly somewhere else just to get fuel, but Joseph also serves as a major stopping point for those coming and going into the Idaho backcountry. The DEQ stormwater permit the staff claims they need just doesn't add up- there is no discharge to surface water, nor is there any industrial activity that would require such a permit. It seems like a convenient excuse to me, not an actual issue.

The ODA staff has indicated that they would be willing to allow volunteers to help with maintenance. However, actually receiving permission to do the work has been a challenge for anyone who has tried. The community here is very willing to help with upkeep. In particular, the snow removal during the winter is extremely important to both GA and emergency services. We would like to see in writing, the waiver form and process required to make sure that we can plow snow this winter.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Louis Perry