To: Chair and Members of the Oregon State Aviation Board
Subject: Joseph State Airport — Fuel Availability and Long-Term Viability

Dear Chair and Board Members,

On behalf of the North East Oregon Aviation Foundation (NEOAF), I am writing to express our concerns regarding the suspension of fuel sales at Joseph State Airport and the implications for the airport's future.

Joseph State Airport serves Wallowa County in several ways. It provides critical access for emergency medical flights, particularly during winter weather when helicopters may be unable to operate. The airport also supports local pilots, brings visitors to the area, and contributes to the local economy. NEOAF supports aviation education, scholarships, and youth programs. A functioning local airport is an asset to the community and supports the foundation's mission.

We recognize ODAV's responsibility to meet applicable safety and environmental requirements. At the same time, we believe the outstanding issues should be clearly identified and resolved so that fuel service can resume. We ask ODAV to work with Century West Engineering to clarify the environmental permit requirements in light of the airport master plan, and to explain what work or approvals remain necessary for the existing fuel system. The 2025 tank inspection report concluded that the tank was suitable for continued service. Please determine whether the existing system can be returned to operation and to outline a path forward, either through a private fuel operator or state-operated sales with trained volunteers assisting with routine servicing.

We would like ODAV to clarify and publish the process for local volunteers to assist with airport maintenance and snow removal. Specifically, please make the volunteer procedures and equipment waiver available and confirm in writing that the permission discussed on October 7 remains in effect for this winter, including use of the airport's International truck. With winter approaching, these arrangements need to be settled before significant snowfall. Keeping the runway clear can be essential for emergency medical flights when helicopters cannot operate.

Finally, we ask ODAV to publicly post the seasonal maintenance positions, including the duties and dates of each position, so interested local residents have a fair opportunity to apply.

These are concrete steps that could help restore fuel availability, support winter operations, and give local stakeholders a clearer understanding of what is needed to keep the airport viable. NEOAF would welcome the opportunity to work with ODAV and the community toward that goal.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Michael S. Fleming
Board Member
North East Oregon Aviation Foundation
neoafoundation.org