From: René Fleming
To: Oregon Department of Aviation
Subject: Joseph State Airport Current Issues
Date: Thursday, October 29, 2026 10:50:30 AM

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October 29, 2026

René Fleming
703 A College St.
P.O. Box 25
Joseph, OR 97846

Oregon Department of Aviation
Re: Joseph State Airport

Oregon Department of Aviation,

As a local aircraft/hangar owner and pilot I am writing to express my concerns regarding recent developments in the abrupt stoppage of fuel service at the Joseph State Airport. In the nearly 20 years of living here in Wallowa County I've had the opportunity to observe and be a part of the activity of this airport. During this time I've seen growth in the number of hangar buildings and also in general aviation traffic use. Also, I've seen the general maintenance and improvements the State of Oregon has performed so as to keep this facility in good condition. Just this last year alone your resurfacing project on the runway, ramp and taxiway greatly improved both the appearance and usefulness of our airport. These things are appreciated by both local and transient pilots.

My main concern is regarding the abrupt cessation of fuel services that happened this summer without warning or discussion with the pilot community. General aviation is a large part of this community and an important stop for transiting pilots regarding both aircraft fuel and other services provided by the City of Joseph and Wallowa County. We also proudly host an annual Fly-in that attracts displays and aviators from around the Pacific Northwest. Funds from this event serves partly to fund scholarships to young people interested in pursuing a career in aviation. We also sell quite a bit of fuel during this time.

On the general physical appearance, it does look odd from the air to have such a nice airport and not have basic fuel service. Our pilot community here is passionate about aviation and are very willing to do whatever is needed to keep fuel available at the Joseph State Airport as well as participate good ongoing maintenance. Our desire to participate includes help in pursuing funding and "boots on the ground" volunteer work at the airport proper. Even though we're a small population tucked away in Eastern Oregon, we like to feel that we are an important part of this State.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

C René Fleming
[redacted]
Aircraft and Hangar Owner
Member Wallowa County Pilots Association
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René
Border Collie Herder