From: Tait Carroll
To: Oregon Department of Aviation
Subject: Public comment: Joseph State Airport fuel, maintenance and volunteers – Chief Joseph Flyers
Date: Thursday, October 29, 2026 4:02:01 PM

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Members of the Oregon State Aviation Board,

I'm writing as president of the Chief Joseph Flyers. We have been based at Joseph State Airport since 1946 and are the oldest flying club in Oregon. We have 30 memberships and fly a club Cessna 172. The club also owns a four-bay hangar on leased ground at the airport, so I'm also writing on behalf of the tenants who keep their aircraft there.

The loss of fuel at Joseph has significantly degraded our operations. Nearly every club flight now starts with a hop to Enterprise for fuel. That adds a takeoff and a landing to almost every flight, and it eats into the time and money members put toward training and real use of the airplane. It also pushes members to buy fuel outside the valley and to plan flights around fuel stops rather than the reason they're flying.

It has also made the airplane harder to share. We've had to set a club fuel standard for how the aircraft is left. If it's left low, the next member starts with a fuel run. If it's left full, a member who wants to take two passengers may not have the payload to do it. There's no good answer without fuel on the field. Our hangar tenants face the same problem with their own aircraft.

The club supports the following:

1. Post each seasonal maintenance position with open applications, and publish the scope of work and season dates.
2. Permit a private operator to sell fuel from the existing tank, or restart state fuel sales with volunteers performing inspections and filter changes.
3. Publish the volunteer process and waiver form, and confirm in writing that volunteers may plow this winter, as discussed at the October 7 meeting.

Our members are closely connected to this community, and many of them have the skills and willingness to help keep this airport working. With a clear process in place, we expect the club and its members would be a real resource for these efforts.

We appreciate ODAV's work on this and want to help find a solution that gets fuel back on the field and keeps the runway open this winter.

Thank you,

Tait Carroll
President, Chief Joseph Flyers
Enterprise, Oregon