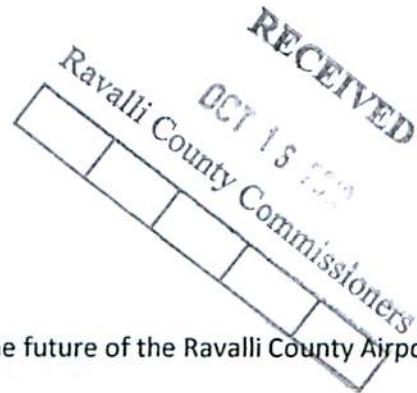


To: Honorable Ravalli County Commissioners

From: Bill and Judy Stewart

Date: October 8, 2012

Re: EA Forecast



Dear Commissioners:

This has been a long, long process to get to this point in the future of the Ravalli County Airport. We commend you on your diligence.

In 1975, the EA suggested that to meet the growth at the airport, at that time, the runway needed to be lengthened to 5200 feet. The sitting commissioners did nothing.

Here we are in 2012 and the EA still suggests 5200 feet to meet growth. You have to admit between 1975 and 2012 our county has grown immensely: a 4-lane from outside of Hamilton into Missoula; no stoplights in 1975 to 5 currently; and of course our population.

Being a "Bitterrooter", Bill has seen many changes in the valley. I, a newcomer since 1959, have too. We have flown off the airport since 1959 when it was a sod strip to paved.

We would like to see the valley like it was in 1959, BUT we know progress goes forward, not backward.

Our airport is a valuable entity to the valley and serves so many purposes.

We hope whatever decision you make will enable the airport to continue in a safe, viable airport providing economic opportunities for our valley residents.

Thanks for taking the time to read this.

Bill and Judy Stewart

Handwritten signatures in blue ink. The top signature is "Bill Stewart" and the bottom signature is "Judy Stewart".

RECEIVED  
JUL 10 1973  
COUNTY CLERK  
KAWAII COUNTY

RECEIVED  
JUL 10 1973

RECEIVED  
JUL 10 1973

RECEIVED  
JUL 10 1973

RECEIVED  
JUL 10 1973

RECEIVED  
JUL 10 1973

RECEIVED  
JUL 10 1973

RECEIVED  
JUL 10 1973

RECEIVED  
JUL 10 1973

RECEIVED  
JUL 10 1973

RECEIVED  
JUL 10 1973

RECEIVED  
JUL 10 1973

RECEIVED  
JUL 10 1973

RECEIVED  
JUL 10 1973

RECEIVED  
JUL 10 1973

October 14, 2012

RECEIVED

OCT 15 2012

Ravalli County Commissioners  
215 S. 4<sup>th</sup>. Street, Suite A  
Hamilton, MT 59840

Ravalli County Commissioners

--	--	--	--	--

Dear Commissioners:

I wish to go on record in support of the Ravalli County Airport improvement/FAA compliance project as proposed by the airport engineering firm, Robert Peccia and Associates of Helena, MT. Specifically, option 4B is the preferred option for several reasons: Option 4B provides the most relief from noise for the many home owners living south of the airport by moving the Runway 34 threshold approximately 1550 feet north. Aircraft approaching Runway 34 will be much higher when over the homes and many aircraft will then actually be on base leg of the traffic pattern on the north side of Golf Course Road. Option 4B will also preclude having to deal with the issue of "historical buildings" (two WWII era hangars). Looking to the future, Option 4B will provide for more space for parking, hangars and other possible businesses.

The recommended runway length of 5200 feet has been a matter of record for over 35 years as determined by at least three engineering firms and the FAA. This will be the first substantial improvement of the Ravalli County Airport in many years and is essential to the economic well being of the area.

Public safety is also an important issue. The U.S. Forest Service must have the ability to safely operate single-engine fire-retardant planes for the purpose of controlling wildfires on the Bitter Root National Forest; after all, they are the "fire department" for the vast majority of land area. It must be noted that the forest interface has become residential and no longer just forest land.

Economically this project is a Win, Win for Ravalli County by increasing the economic viability of the area, providing jobs and future business opportunities to the area at very little investment.

Please vote for Option 4B, a good safe airport is an investment for the future. This project must be approved now because any hesitation will most likely result in the termination of any positive relationship Ravalli County may have with the FAA and the State of Montana as far as future business dealings are concerned.

Sincerely,



Fred W. Hasskamp  
\*Montana Aeronautics Division  
Montana Department of Transportation  
Aviation Safety and Education Bureau Chief, retired.



Donna M. Hasskamp  
115 Central Avenue  
Hamilton, MT 59840

(406) 363-1742

October 13, 2012



TO: Ravalli County Commissioners

RE: Ravalli County Airport

I am the wife of a member of the Ravalli County Airport Advisory Board, a member who has been serving over ten years.

The issue of expanding the airport for better safety and to comply with FAA requirements has been in one state after another since the 1970's. So it's nothing new.

Having been here for 15 years and watching this constant fight all that time, I personally believe it's time to make the final decision: Go ahead and approve the airport expansion before another day passes by.

I appreciate the opportunity to express my opinion.



Donna M. Hasskamp

## Glenda Wiles

---

**From:** Nancy Neville [neville625@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 15, 2012 2:16 PM  
**To:** Ravalli County Commissioners  
**Subject:** Airport update

We would like to support the Ravalli County commissioners to support future growth of the airport and support the runway length ensuring the safety for 100% of the aircraft using our airport today. Why is this important? The airport stays open or it closes, simple as that! The county commissioners have stated that there isn't any money available from the county to pay the required FAA match of 10% on any alternative. The Ravalli County Aviation Safety Foundation has pledged to obtain the money needed for the required match if the commissioners choose an alternative ensuring room for future growth of the airport with a 5200 foot runway. Yes, we can get this improvement without any cost to the Ravalli County Citizens!

How will the airport close if the county is unable to fund the match money on any alternative? The FAA has stopped funding Ravalli County Airport because the airport does not meet the safety requirements required by the FAA. Without FAA money, the airport continues to fall further into disrepair and eventually will not be safe for aircraft use. Taxiways and ramps are already in such sad state they cannot be repaired but instead, must be replaced. An asset that contributes fourteen million dollars to the county will be lost which equates to more job losses.

Alternatives 4, 4A, & 4B are the three alternatives which allow for future growth and a 5200 foot runway. The differences between these alternatives are how far to move the runway to the north. All three of these alternatives move the runway 400 feet east allowing room for future growth of the airport. Alternative 4 moves the runway 600 feet north, 4A moves the runway 1000 feet north and 4B moves the runway 1550 feet north. There are two reasons for moving the runway north. One, moving the traffic pattern north gets it further from the housing developments that have appeared at the south end of the runway making it safer and quieter. 4B moves it the furthest north. Two, 4B eliminates the need in dealing with the old historical hangars on the south end of the airport.

Please support the sustenance and improvements for the airport. It is a vital part of our community and it's future!

Please! vote for Alternative 4B. This is very important for the county!!

Sincerely,

Richard & Nancy Neville

## Glenda Wiles

---

**From:** Alke, Debbie [dalke@mt.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 15, 2012 2:06 PM  
**To:** Ravalli County Commissioners  
**Cc:** drh20@bitterroot.com  
**Subject:** Hamilton airport

Good afternoon Commissioners:

The Montana Department of Transportation Aeronautics Division (MDT) advocates statewide for aviation and airport safety and recognizes the economic importance of an airport to a community.

MDT supports the Hamilton airport being moved to the north and the runway being extended to 5200' in length; Alternative 4B. Safe operations and protection of state investments are important and help ensure a safe airport environment for all. MDT has participated with financial assistance to the Hamilton Airport in past years and looks forward to continuing that partnership.

It makes good planning sense to look to and plan for the future today.

Thank you Commissioners for your time and efforts.

Debbie Alke  
Administrator  
MDT Aeronautics Division  
(406) 444-9569

## Glenda Wiles

---

**From:** Jeff Nelson [jsnelson414@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 15, 2012 1:56 PM  
**To:** Ravalli County Commissioners  
**Subject:** For Public Safety, please vote YES to improving the Ravalli County Airport

A headline in today's Ravalli Republic: "Larger, hotter wildfires the new norm in West"

The airport is a critical public safety resource. We need a healthy and capable Ravalli County Airport so that Ravalli County citizens have access to rapid response resources when there is a local emergency or disaster.

In late August, I watched in horror when a small fire erupted on a mountain side just west of Darby. If left to spread, it would have devastated our little town. A helicopter firefighting team quickly deployed out of the Ravalli County Airport and doused that fire.

Fortunately, that team was temporarily based at the Ravalli County Airport and it was easy to respond this local priority. If we did not have our airport to provide a base, who knows how the priorities for that resource would have played out.

Containing the Darby fire, and the Sawtooth Fire would probably have been far cheaper and faster to contain with airplanes versus the helicopters, but as we know, our short runway cuts the safety margin close for the smaller firefighting airplanes. We saw this in 2011 when aircraft were used on the fires east of Hamilton. The new runway is critical to getting the most 'bang for the buck' for our public safety.

Jeffrey S. Nelson  
PO Box 434  
277 Overturf Rd  
Darby, MT 59829

**Glenda Wiles**

---

**From:** Charles Bloom [cwbloom35@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 15, 2012 12:45 PM  
**To:** Ravalli County Commissioners  
**Subject:** Please vote for Alternative 4B

More and more Hamilton is evolving into a destination. Your airport needs to keep up with the expansion. You have an excellent location and Alternative 4B will make it even better. That will allow a larger and city friendly environment for air transportation in and out of Hamilton. As one who flies frequently into Hamilton I have seen the city closing around the runway. Alternative 4B will make a quieter and safer airport.

Charles Bloom

**Glenda Wiles**

---

**From:** matt guzik [montana-matt@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 15, 2012 11:22 AM  
**To:** Ravalli County Commissioners  
**Subject:** Airport Expansion

To the Ravalli County Board of Commissioners,

This county has an opportunity to take a step in providing jobs, improving business health, and transportation and providing a safe airport environment with the approval of expanding the runway length at our airport. Please take a close look at this opportunity rather than letting the few vocal nay-sayers drown out this chance to improve our community.

I encourage you to be Pro Growth, Pro Jobs, and Pro Safety. Please approve the expansion of the Ravalli County Airport (alternatives 4A or 4B) and set this county in motion for prosperity.

Sincerely,  
Matthew Guzik  
Resident  
Pilot  
General Manager of the Stock Farm Club  
Philanthropist