

Put in EA folder as well

Glenda Wiles

From: sharon renfro <sammcfro@wildblue.net>
Sent: Monday, June 23, 2014 2:17 PM
To: dan@rpa-hln.com
Cc: Glenda Wiles; Sharon Renfro
Subject: Ravalli County Airport

Dear Mr. Norderud,

I'm afraid you are not getting all sides to this "to have or not to have" issue w/r/t the expansion of the runway at the Ravalli County Airport, Hamilton, Montana. Who is telling you that "we" even "need" this expansion? Why do they say we "need" this expansion? Please consider who the "who" are and why they have these "needs". I suspect that the "who's" are not even nearly a majority of Ravalli County voters, and that the "whys" are not the general consensus here.

We have been proud residents of this county of Ravalli for over 40 years, and prior to that lived in the Missoula area. Not once have we needed or even wished for an expanded runway at the Ravalli County Airport. None of our friends or acquaintances have ever mentioned the need or want for a larger airport in Hamilton area. We have always found the Missoula airport to be more than sufficient for all our needs. And now that Frontier is coming back to give us even more services, well, we couldn't be better taken care of, w/r/t air service.

We are highly suspect of the "proof" that "they" say they have for the number of annual takeoffs and landings of the larger aircraft there. The airport says these events have been decreasing over the last few years. The airport itself says there are about 390. And if this traffic is decreasing, then next year it should be less.

And the fuel records are also highly suspect. The type and amount of fuel must be decreased by the number of helicopters and other planes that have also used that fuel, if "they" are trying to prove usage with the fuel consumption. Why has it been so hard for others to get a copy of these records, especially since they are part of what "they" say is the proof that an expanded runway is needed?

Why should Hamilton and all the valley residents suffer noise and fume pollution, just to make it a little more convenient for the rich and famous to land a little closer to their second, or fifth home? The noise and fumes will increase exponentially with the increase of the larger jets and turbo props. The normal citizen in this valley is perfectly fine with flying in and out of the Missoula County Airport. The air service is good and the roads are good between the two cities. There is no difficulty with making reservations and catching flights in and out of the Missoula airport. We pick up friends and family there often, and it has never been a hardship for us or our neighbors and friends.

The use of any more funds to lengthen the runway at the Ravalli County Airport is not prudent use of anybody's money, and especially not if it comes from my tax dollars! What happened to the improvements there that were supposed to happen in 2011? Not done because "they" were pushing for a longer runway?

Why would you rely on this Environmental Assessment, as it does not compare at all to the previous Environmental Assessments for the same airport. And why take a such slanted EA at all, why not go for a total Environmental Impact Study? Something of this importance, with these many possible negative impacts on our whole community, this should garner the real deal, the whole study, done by a neutral third party, doncha think?

And many of the "who" are not even full-time residents of our county/community/state. Many of these "who" just want the longer runway to fly in their bigger jets to bring in their friends, to play in their vacation spot. And once their little vacation spot becomes too noisy and too polluted (due largely in part to their big jets, and turboprops), then they'll find a new place to play until they have messed that up too. We, on the other hand cannot afford to move, on the chase of something prettier, quieter, or more remote. We will be left with what "they" wanted, even though "they" have gone, and "they" don't want it anymore. Well, not here anymore, but they will then be "needing" all these so called amenities somewhere else.

So, may we suggest that the issue go on the November ballot to give the voters in this county a say. We think we deserve a vote. That way the real "we" can decide whether to go forward with this so called improvement to "our" airport, or put it to bed yet again. We suspect that the time for public input has been limited and kept from us, to limit the number of letters you get opposing this plan/scam. If this were to be put on the ballot, then the residents of this valley would be able to speak. That, we deserve. That is fair.

Sincerely,

Sharon and Richard Renfro
Ravalli County, Montana