

put on EIA file as well

Ravalli County Commissioners Office

From: Kelsey Milner <kelsey.milner@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 23, 2014 9:24 AM
To: dan@rpa-hln.com
Cc: Ravalli County Commissioners Office
Subject: Ravalli County Airport

Dear Mr. Norderud:

Bitterrooters for Planning (BfP) understands that you are accepting public comment on behalf of the FAA for the potential expansion of the Ravalli County Airport. I want to express our opposition to this project as it is unnecessary and will be excessively costly to the tax payers of Ravalli County (and beyond we expect). The Missoula Airport is a little more than an hour by car from Hamilton and functions quite well as a service to the Bitterroot Valley.

Many of our members live in the direct flight path of commercial airliners travelling between Salt Lake City and Missoula as well as flights to and from Denver and to and from Minneapolis. These flights already cause significant, but acceptable, levels of disturbance overhead. We do not need the additional disturbance that would be caused by more frequent and larger aircraft using a significantly expanded Ravalli County Airport – certainly not with the expected additional cost that would benefit a select few and certainly not when many of the residents that live within the influence zone of the Hamilton Airport are in opposition.

BfP strongly supports improving the current airport in Hamilton to the specifications that were approved several years ago – prior to the reworking and up scaling of the project advanced by our current slate of County Commissioners. That project had considerable public support from the Ravalli County residents who would be most affected by the increased air traffic, noise and safety considerations of the larger expansion currently being considered. There was broad public support from elsewhere in the county as well.

Thank you for your time and we hope that you will reconsider using the original and less expensive safety upgrades for the Ravalli County Airport as approved several years ago.

Sincerely,

Kelsey Milner, President
Bitterrooters for Planning
PO Box 505
Corvallis MT 59822
406-363-7555