

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Hamilton Airport Draft EA.

I believe the current EA, as prepared by Robert Peccia and Associates, is unnecessary and should be scrapped. My reasons are as follows:

The Ravalli County Commission, of which I was an elected member (June 2007-December 2010), approved an EA for the Hamilton Airport in late 2010. We approved this EA after approximately 14 months of public hearings and numerous meetings with interested citizens. The plan we ultimately agreed upon, Option 2A, was painstakingly designed after many hundreds of commission-hours of public meetings and many, one-on-one meetings with numerous citizens representing all sides of this issue.

Following many complex discussions involving engineering, politics and environmental concerns, we formally adopted Option 2A on a 3-2 vote. I voted with the majority because I believed that Option 2A, while not perfect, was *generally acceptable to most people.*

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Ravalli County Commissioners

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There was no credible reason for the current commission to scrap an approved plan crafted so carefully with much public input; there was no environmental reason, nor was there any new information about impacts to air, water or endangered species. In fact, the current commission scrapped Option 2A without any explanation to the public at all. I suspect the reason the current commission scrapped Option 2A was strictly political, which is neither credible nor justifiable under NEPA.

The careful crafting of Option 2A by an elected board of commissioners with significant public input was the way government is supposed to work.

I strongly suggest the FAA scrap the existing Peccia EA, and adopt Option 2A, as the citizens of Ravalli County intended.

Thank you,
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