

Glenda Wiles

From: SSROSSITER@aol.com
Sent: Monday, June 30, 2014 6:23 PM
To: dan@rpa-hln.com
Cc: Glenda Wiles
Subject: Support for airport improvement plan

Dear Sir:

As a longtime user of the Ravalli County Airport in Hamilton, I am writing in support of the proposed airport improvement plan. Moving the runway 400 feet east and 1,5550 feet north makes sense as it would move the traffic pattern away from houses south of the airport. Extending the runway to 5,200 feet is not going to attract noisier airplanes as the opponents of this plan imply, but it will make airport operations safer for all current users including the single engine air tankers (SEAT) taking off fully loaded to fight wildfires.

Based on a recent Montana Department of Aeronautics Study, the Ravalli County Airport (6S5) has had a positive economic impact on the town of Hamilton and the County of Ravalli. Pilots and passengers landing in Hamilton not only purchase fuel and sometimes maintenance services, but they may be in town to conduct business activities that could generate new opportunities for local vendors and/or job seekers. While it is difficult to calculate the precise amount of revenue that any airport generates for the local community, it is safe to postulate that the majority of small airports add value to the local community rather than take value away from the community.

Airports and fire stations have at least one thing in common. Nobody wants a fire station on their block until it's their house that's on fire. Likewise, a local resident may not appreciate the value of the community airport until it is his or her family member who needs to be airlifted due to a medical emergency.

Finally, anytime an airport can take advantage of federal funding to make airport improvements to enhance aviation safety, it is a smart move. Enhancing airport safety really doesn't have a downside -- it's good for everyone in the community.

Sherry Rossiter, Co-Owner
American Aircraft Traders, LLC