

Glenda Wiles

From: Joel Jessop <joel.jessop@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 3, 2014 12:32 PM
To: Glenda Wiles
Subject: Fwd: Ravalli Count Airport Expansion

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Joel Jessop <joel.jessop@yahoo.com>
Date: July 2, 2014 at 1:37:23 PM MDT
To: "dan@rpa-hln.com" <dan@rpa-hln.com>
Subject: Ravalli Count Airport Expansion

Hello, my name is Joel Jessop and I manage line operations for Choice Aviation at the Ravalli County Airport. I am writing to show my support for the expansion of the airport. I work 45-50 hours a week at the airport and directly involved with a large percentage of the flight operations than happen here. I can tell you from my interactions with pilots and passangers from all over the country and the world that the current condition of Ravalli County Airport does not leave a good impression on those that come here to enjoy the beautiful place that we get to live, and to spend their money here as well.

It is quite obvious that the runway, taxiway and ramp are all in a serious state of disrepair and each one needs serious help. It is also obvious that the current length of the runway is a serious safety concern for many of the aircraft that come and go on a daily basis. Many of the pilots that land and operate here will tell you that an extra 1000 feet of runway would make their lives a lot safer and less complicated. I have personally seen the Single Engine Tankers that the Forest Service uses for fire fighting operations have to punch off part of the load of retardant in order to even get off of the end of the runway and go do their jobs. Ravalli County airport is central to a lot of forested areas and should be made to a standard in which the planes that currently use it can operate in a safe and efficient manner.

An additional 1000 feet of runway while making things a lot safer for the aircraft the do operate here, is still not enough runway to accommodate bigger aircraft especially since it will not be engineered to handle their weight. It will however make things much safer and help the ones that do come to better utilize the services provided by the company I work for and also many other local businesses (fuel, rental cars, hotels, shopping, etc.).

I feel that this the purposed plan for expansion is truly the best thing for this county and the benefits that it provides will be seen in countless ways for generations to come. Please make the right decision and lets move this project forward and get it finished.

Thank you for your time and considering what I have to say. Joel Jessop