

Glenda Wiles

From: MPA Prez <mpaprez@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 23, 2014 10:47 AM
To: dan@rpa-hln.com; Glenda Wiles; drh29@bitterroot.com
Subject: Attn: Ravalli County Airport

I am writing this letter in support of the proposed work for the Ravalli County Airport. The airport is a gateway to many activities in the Bitterroot valley, a safe airport is a prime concern for pilots flying in.

During times of firefighting activity a 5200 foot runway is a safety benefit for the single engine air tankers that use the airport. This helps all of us in the valley. Moving the airport a little to the east and north will avoid the houses on the south side of town as well as the high school, further enhancing safety.

The refurbished airport will make the area desirable for new businesses that may decide to move to town. The airport is also infrastructure and needs to be maintained just like roads and bridges. According to a Montana Aeronautics Division study the airport brings in \$14 million a year in economic value to the town and local area, providing jobs to local folks. Not improving the airport threatens this economic engine.

As President of the Montana Pilots Assoc and it's nearly 700 members I whole-heartedly support the proposed work to be done at the Ravalli County airport.

Scott Newpower
President
Montana Pilots Assoc.