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To whom it concerns:

As a pilot of 33 years experience and having served as an elected Director at the Monterey Peninsula Airport District for 12 years and currently vice-chair of the Ravalli County Airport Advisory Board I submit some comments on the current EA (Environmental Assessment) for the Ravalli County Airport.

After reviewing the EA in great detail, I feel that Ravalli County and their engineering firm have fully addressed the environmental concerns with regard to updating and improving the facilities at the airport. The minor issues that could be of concern are easily mitigated and basically of insignificant impact.

Complying with FAA regulations on safety should be of primary concern and have been fully addressed with the proposed movement and lengthening of the runway. Distance separation from aircraft and buildings, distance from residential and distance from the school.

The Federal Agencies, State Agencies and Local Interests had their issues addressed and came forward with a basic "No negative Impact."

As a pilot that pays into the Aviation Trust Fund, I see the need for the much needed and suggested improvements to the Ravalli County Airport.

Communities across the country are benefited by having regional general aviation airports. The airport in Ravalli County is of importance to those that benefit from its location and are not pilots. Improvements to the airport will only enhance those benefits through greater fire safety, jobs and the economic enhancement from revenue.

This airport is an asset of Ravalli County and should be maintained to the best ability available, as every other asset of the County needs. Without a taxing infrastructure on the airport, the benefit is of negative financial impact to county residents.

Having participated in EA's in the past, my opinion is that this improvement project has a total of positives that are far outweighing any of the negative issues that have been raised.


