



421 Aviation Way
Frederick, Maryland 21701

T. 301-695-2000
F. 301-695-2375

www.aopa.org

June 30, 2008

The Honorable Ronald B. McIntire
Mayor
City of Hayden
8930 N. Government Way
Hayden, ID 83835

Re: Proposed Hayden Canyon Subdivision

Dear Mayor McIntire:

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA), represents the general aviation interests of more than 413,000 members, including 3,350 of our members in the state of Idaho. On behalf of our membership, AOPA is committed to ensuring the future viability and development of general aviation airports and their facilities as part of a national transportation system.

The purpose of this letter is to share AOPA's concerns with the proposed development known as Hayden Canyon Subdivision, located approximately one mile northeast of the Coeur d'Alene Airport (COE), and the possible significant impacts it will have. Residential development this close to an airport is a matter of poor public policy and we strongly encourage the City of Hayden to not allow residential development so close to COE – also referred to as the jewel of Kootenai County.

The Kootenai County executed grant assurances with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) when they accepted Airport Improvement Program funds for various development projects at the airport. Two of those grant assurances require that the airport sponsor take appropriate actions to:

1. "...assure that such terminal airspace as is required to protect instrument and visual operations to the airport will be adequately cleared and protected by removing, lowering, relocating, marking, or lighting or otherwise mitigating existing airport hazards and by preventing the establishment or creation of future airport hazards."¹
2. "...take appropriate action, to the extent reasonable, including the adoption of zoning laws, to restrict the use of land adjacent to or in the immediate vicinity of the airport to activities and purposes compatible with normal airport operations, including landing and takeoff of aircraft."²

¹ FAA Airport Sponsor Assurances #20 Hazard Removal and Mitigation,
http://www.faa.gov/arp/financial/aip/airport_sponsor_assurances.pdf

² FAA Airport Sponsor Assurances #21 Compatible Land Use,
http://www.faa.gov/arp/financial/aip/airport_sponsor_assurances.pdf

The Honorable Ronald B. McIntire

Page 2

June 30, 2008

The Association believes that compatible land use around airports should be a high priority for airport sponsors in order to adequately provide for the health, welfare and safety of its citizens both on the ground and in the air. Allowing residential development under the aircraft approach and departure operations for two runways will diminish the existing protection and safety of the airport and create additional noise concerns in the future.

Since Coeur d'Alene is an extremely active general aviation airport with more than 123,000 operations annually and 174 based aircraft, residential units in close proximity to the airport simply are not in the best interest of the airport or local residents who would be living near it.

AOPA respectfully requests the City of Hayden to not allow this proposed development to continue. We appreciate your prompt action to stop an incompatible land use in such close proximity to this viable transportation asset.

Sincerely,



Heidi Williams
Senior Director
Airports