



August 11, 2025

Via Electronic Mail

Debra Sanning, Regional Administrator
FAA Central Region
901 Locust St, Rm 364
Kansas City, MO 64106-2325

Skyhaven Airport (RCM) - Part 13 Complaint

Dear Administrator Sanning -

We write today to express our concerns regarding reported FAA Grant Assurance violations at Skyhaven Airport (RCM), which are the subject of a current Part 13 investigation by your office. The leases offered by the airport sponsor are the current focus, but this appears to be one of multiple issues present that favor the airport sponsor, the University of Central Missouri (UCM).

If the airport has proposed lease terms that are inconsistent with FAA Grant Assurances, it is imperative that these terms be promptly and thoroughly reviewed to bring them into full compliance with regulatory requirements. Of further concern is that UCM's initial response to your office's notice of a Part 13 investigation appeared to understate the seriousness of these matters. As the airport sponsor, and a university with a respected Aviation Management program, UCM has a responsibility to ensure that its operational practices fully uphold the principles it teaches. Addressing these issues directly would not only resolve the current matter but also reinforce the credibility of the Aviation Management program and demonstrate the sponsor's commitment to adhering to sound airport management practices.

We applaud the FAA's decision to place a "No Pay" status on current and future airport improvement grants until the airport sponsor brings the airport policies and procedures into compliance with FAA Grant Assurances.

It is our understanding that UCM recently submitted a follow-up response; however, in speaking with tenants, particularly those seeking approval to operate aviation businesses at RCM, the university continues to move the goalposts monthly via changes to the Commercial Minimum Standards, the Airport Rules and Regulations, and the proposed Commercial Vendor License Agreement. We understand that as the university has updated the commercial agreements, the terms of such agreements appear to disproportionately favor the sponsor and constant updates to the terms have made it difficult for businesses to establish operations at the airport. Such a disproportionate imbalance would serve to perpetuate the reported violations of GA 22, Economic Nondiscrimination, and GA 23, Exclusive Rights.

It appears the problems at RCM have developed over decades. We believe a thorough and thoughtful review by UCM leadership of the airport's governing documents, policies, and practices would be productive in ensuring consistency with FAA grant assurances and modern airport business practices.

Going forward, we also highly encourage the establishment of an Airport Board that represents local pilots unaffiliated with UCM, other airport tenants, the local community, and the university, to advise UCM leadership and help facilitate an airport environment that best meets the needs of all users and serves as an example of a strong, healthy public-use airport.

As part of the FAA's ongoing investigation and compliance process, we urge you to ensure that all UCM board members and executive leaders are aware that RCM receives FAA grant funding for the benefit of all stakeholders and users.

Our organizations greatly appreciate the speed and resolve by your office in adjudicating this Part 13 investigation. We look forward to working with the FAA and the airport sponsor to ensure Skyhaven Airport's success far into the future.

Respectfully,



Darren Pleasance
President & CEO
Aircraft Owners & Pilots Assoc.



Jack J. Pelton
CEO & Chairman of the Board
Experimental Aircraft Assoc.



Curt Castagna
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