



AIRCRAFT OWNERS AND PILOTS ASSOCIATION

421 Aviation Way • Frederick, MD 21701-4798
Telephone (301) 695-2000 • Fax (301) 695-2375
www.aopa.org

June 29, 2007

The Honorable Larry Rich
Mayor
City of Roseburg
900 SE Douglas Avenue
Roseburg, OR 97470

Dear Mayor Rich:

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) represents the general aviation interests of 412,000 members, more than two-thirds of the nation's pilots – including 6,751 of our members in the state of Oregon. 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.

In discussion with AOPA members at Roseburg Regional Airport, we learned that the Federal Aviation Administration's Seattle Airports District Office recently denied a request by the City to construct a Costco wholesale superstore north of Runway 16/34 on airport property. The basis for the rejection is the agency's national and regional land use policy guidelines.

AOPA strongly supports the FAA's decision and believes that compatible land use around airports is a vital component to ensuring that airports remain accessible and viable as essential public facilities. We also believe that protecting airports from incompatible land uses allows for future aeronautical development of the airport and more importantly, prohibiting incompatible land use increases the safety of your citizens on the ground and in the air.

While we recognize that the potential revenue from the lease of that property might assist in the airport's ability to be self-sufficient, the trade off in decreased safety is not worth that price. We encourage you as the airport sponsor to find another compatible way to utilize that property and potentially increase airport revenue.

Thank you for your efforts on this issue. If we can be of any assistance in the future please contact us at 301-695-2200.

Sincerely,

John L. Collins
Senior Liaison
Airports

cc:

Mr. Mel Cheney, Airport Commission Chair
Mr. Daniel E. Clem, Director, Oregon Department of Aviation
Mr. Bill Watson, Supervisor, Oregon /Idaho Section, FAA Seattle Airports District Office
Mr. Mike Ferguson, AOPA Northwest Regional Representative
Mr. Robert C. Russell, AOPA Airport Support Network Volunteer RBG