

# Friends of French Prairie

Friends of French Prairie  
is an Oregon non-profit corporation

PO Box 403 | Donald, Oregon 97020 | [www.friendsoffrenchprairie.org](http://www.friendsoffrenchprairie.org)



March 10, 2011

Chris Cummings  
Oregon Department of Aviation  
3040 25th Street  
Salem, OR 97302

Mr. Cummings;

As you know, Friends of French Prairie is a land use organization who's area of interest is French Prairie, the historic and agricultural center of Oregon. The Aurora Airport happens to sit in north east French Prairie, and is surrounded principally by farmland zoned EFU that are comprised of Class I and II soils. Our greatest concern is the preservation of farmland.

We are opposed to expansion of the Aurora Airport, because all such expansion occurs at the expense of farm land. The airport was expanded in the '90s (resulting in the reconfiguration of Kiel Road), which in turn allowed the airport to handle larger aircraft. This attracted not just aircraft owners with larger aircraft, but aviation industry, which in turn led to more traffic, etc. The result of which is the current "safety problem" that has to be resolved with an air traffic control tower. Marion County has abetted this process by approving zone changes that have increased aviation activity, in as much as they see the airport as a tax revenue source and appear not to be concerned that the consequence is loss of farm land. The most recent and egregious example is the rezoning of EFU land allowing Helicopter Transport Corp. to relocate to the southwest corner of the airport will greatly increase helicopter traffic, and removes 30 acres of farm land.

While we support improved air traffic safety, and thus the air traffic control tower, we support the No-Build Alternative found in Chapter 5 of the current Aurora Airport Master Plan document. The airport should continue as is, with necessary and required maintenance. All the other proposed alternatives either increase the runway length or accomodate precision approach which means more larger aircraft which means airport expansion. We note that Alternatives 1 proposes moderate runway lengthening within the current airport boundary, but Alternatives 3 and 4 are expansion of such scope as to be substantially expand the Runway Object Free Area and the 35' Building Restriction Line, and as such are intolerable.

The efforts of Oregon Department of Aviation, Marion County, and the local aviation industry over the past two decades have not only expanded the airport, but have created a domino effect of actions leading to contemplated and unanticipated results which require another action--all characterized by expansion and loss of farm land.

The current master planning process will continue this outcome if the airport is expanded yet again. Agriculture is a major economic sector in the state and in Marion County. French Prairie has the best soils in the United States. Both need to be protected.

Please see attached petition signed by members of Friends of French Prairie, uniformly in opposition to expansion of the Aurora Airport.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Benjamin D. Williams". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Benjamin D Williams

President, Friends of French Prairie

**PETITION CONCERNING THE MASTER PLANNING PROCESS  
FOR THE AURORA STATE AIRPORT**

**To be submitted to OREGON DEPARTMENT OF AVIATION**

**by FRIENDS OF FRENCH PRAIRIE**

**W**hereas the Aurora State Airport is located in the French Prairie part of Marion County, the historic and agricultural heartland of Oregon, primarily comprised of agricultural land characterized by the finest soils in the United States.

**W**hereas Oregon Department of Aviation is currently conducting an update to the Aurora State Airport Master plan, we the undersigned hereby express our concern with the potential negative impacts of the Master planning process, and specifically oppose:

- The contemplated lengthening of the runway which has the potential to attract more aviation operations and **negatively impact nearby roads and traffic**;
- Expansion of the Aurora Airport beyond the current boundaries as a result of implementing "precision approach" and the consequent **loss of farm land**.

Signed by

Wm D. Wettstein                      William D. Wettstein  
Name    Signature

9533 Younger Rd NE Aurora, OR 97003  
Address

Dianne Ruff                                      [Signature]  
Name    Signature

23747 1st St NE Aurora OR 97002  
Address

BENJAMIN A WILLIAMS                      [Signature]  
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Jan House Jan House  
Name Signature

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David Rebner David R. Rebner  
Name Signature

Box 480 St. Paul, OR 97137  
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Joe Casale III Joe Casale III  
Name Signature

P.O. Box 542 Donald OR. 97020  
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Ryan Fowler Ryan RL  
Name Signature

12877 Napheluf Ct Ne Aurora, OR 97002  
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Twila Wetstein Twila M Wetstein  
Name Signature

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Address

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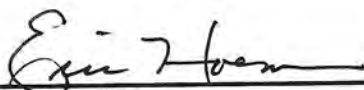
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Signed by

Eric Hoem   
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8301 SW Lafayette Way  
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Wilsonville, OR, 97070  
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Stephen G Baker   
Name Signature

13700 SW Bell Rd, Sherwood, OR 97140  
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Allen E. DALY

Name

Allen E. Daly

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James Moore, Robert J. A. Moore

Name

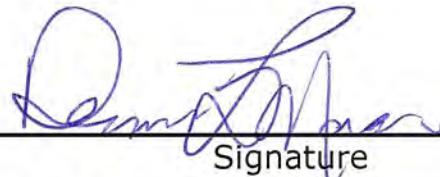
Signature

23061 schultz rd NE, Aurora, OR 97002

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DENNIS MAXS

Name



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Peter Koehler, Jr

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Noel Hanlon

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Mary Elizabeth Wells

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Dan + Joanne Keeley

Dan Keeley

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IVAN + MARTIE HOVE

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John Miller

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