

Appendix B
Airport Support Letters

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James R Jones
Big Sioux Aviation
307 2nd St SW
Brookings, SD 57006

Dear Alan Lanning:

My name is James R Jones, I retired from Northwest airlines after 37 years of service and am the owner of Big Sioux Aviation, which is located at the Brookings airport. We are the flight contractor for SDSU's aviation program and provide fueling services for transient aircraft. I have personally invested my entire pension and 401k plan into developing my business at the airport and between my pension, 401k and personal guarantees, I have two million dollars invested in this airport. Needless to say, I am somewhat interested in what the airport's final master plan proposal will be.

I have been to several airport board meetings and have had a chance to talk with both Mr. Dame and several tenants about the issue of the potential moving of the Brookings airport. I would like to offer my views to you about this issue.

First and foremost the City of Brookings needs to realize that the airport is the front door and for many people, the first impression of the City. Many prominent business are located in Brookings or in the surrounding area because of the airport. The airport is a *Vital* economic tool for the city and for its future growth. Corporate traffic will be growing at the airport in the future. There is no way around this if you want the city to grow. Employer's are using air travel now more and more for time savings and Brookings is no different. The airport must be ready to serve these needs. If not they will find a different city to do business in. SDSU has moved to Division one status. We have fielded several calls from schools wondering if the airport would support their aircraft to fly their teams into Brookings. Right now we cannot. Teams currently go to Sioux Falls and then bus to Brookings. That works now, but how long does the city want to let Sioux Falls be the recipient of the dollars these schools spend for their air travel?

There has been some talk about shortening the runways at Brookings. This would virtually kill corporate jet traffic into Brookings and greatly restrict any kind of growth for the airport. This in my opinion, would be the worst case solution. The most recent idea that has been proposed is to leave the airport as is and try for waivers for the existing problems at the airport. This would not solve the problems nor would it prevent

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additional problems from arising as now the courts have ordered building to go ahead in the airport protection zones. Eventually the Federal Govt is going to say that's enough you need to deal with this problem or face the consequences.

I feel that the option of moving the airport is the best idea for Brookings to consider for several reasons. First, it moves the airport away from town and allows the airport to be able to expand as demand warrants. Two, the city then would have a brand new facility that will serve the Brookings area far into the foreseeable future. Three, it would be able to serve all corporate aircraft and encourage additional aircraft to be based at the airport. Four, it would then be in a position to accommodate the future needs of SDSU. And finally the main reason, the FAA is now behind the idea and is willing to help out with it, and if the city does not take advantage of it they may not be willing to do it in the future.

The main concern that I have and that I share with the other tenants at the airport is how it will impact us as far as relocation goes. The city needs to take responsibility for the mess they got themselves into with the airport protection zones which has resulted in the current situation. The current hangar owners and My business should not be made to suffer financial hardship as a result of the city's past decisions. If the airport were to move, then there must be a plan for fair compensation for the current tenants on the field.

The airport has come a long way and I have strived to make my business a first class place for people to get a good impression of the city and of Big Sioux Aviation. I feel that the airport is poised for rapid growth, and the city needs to be willing to take advantage of that. You have the opportunity to have an even more modern, new facility that would be the envy of many communities in South Dakota. This is not spending money on a project that has no impact on the community. This is investing in an economic tool for the city and needs to be looked at as such.

I am excited about the future of our airport and hope strongly that the city takes advantage of the opportunity that is before them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James R. Jones", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

James R Jones
President
Big Sioux Aviation

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SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

September 9, 2005

Mr. Robb Sexauer
2901 Monarch Lane
Brookings, South Dakota 57006

Dear Mr. Sexauer:

In recent days all of us have shuddered to see the terrible devastation along the Gulf Coast of our nation. With each new horror that was discovered, I felt more and more disappointed in all of us as Americans. We had known for many years that without changes to the existing infrastructure many of our citizens would not be able to escape death, suffering and the destruction of their homes and cities. Yet, as a people, we had not been bold in demanding that our leadership look ahead and take the actions necessary to prevent the disaster. I resolved that I would not again stay silent when I thought there were things that were necessary for a good future for my family or my community. That is why I am writing to you.

I am grateful that our community is not faced with a life threatening decision about our local infrastructure. However, I do believe that we are approaching a decision that will have significant consequences for the welfare of our town, our area and certainly for our university.

Today, we live with economic reality that is fast changing, extraordinarily competitive, and unforgiving to those communities unprepared to meet its demands. We have been lucky in Brookings to have attracted and grown some thriving businesses, but for those enterprises to stay competitive and for us to attract others, we must meet the demands of the new and the changing in every way that we can.

Many things are required to stay economically viable. Two that are critical are now under consideration in our community. One is access to broad band technology and South Dakota State is taking the leadership on this and spending great amounts of time, resources and energy to ensure that we are not left without this tool. The other is modern competitive air transportation. To fail to provide adequate infrastructure for competitive modern air service in our community would have those long term consequences that will limit our opportunities for sustaining and growing the prosperity we now enjoy.

I must add my plea to others that we do the right thing for the future of Brookings and not find ourselves in years to come, regretting our loses and lack of resolve in protecting our community's future and prosperity when we had the opportunity to do so.

Sincerely,

Peggy Gordon Miller
President

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