

April 11, 2005

David B. Elder  
City of Worthington  
6550 North High Street  
P.O. Box 480  
Worthington, Ohio 43085

Re: City of Worthington / Ohio State University

Dear David:

I have reviewed the WOOSE report on the proposed expansion of OSU airport. Overall, I thought it was extremely well done. I have no quarrel with the recommendations set out on page four (4).

I agree generally with the sentiment that the noise from airport operations has a deleterious effect on property values. However the study recognizes, and I agree, that the effort to calculate a dollar value on the noise impacts is incomplete and simplistic. I agree that expected noise from future aircraft departures and arrivals will decrease the value of affected real estate. However I am unable and unwilling to assign a range to that impact, nor confirm that this decrease in value will result in a loss of tax revenue. These calculations must await a detailed noise exposure map.

I agree with the comments that the OSU 2002 Airport Economic Impact Study is faulty. Similarly, the financial data from OSU airport operations is insufficiently detailed, poorly organized, and internally inconsistent. If the financial statements were prepared in accordance with GAAP, no doubt they would show that the airport revenues are being improperly transferred in violation of FAA guidelines.

The failure of OSU to include the OSU Airport in Regional Planning efforts is particularly discouraging. If a true economic analysis of the impacts of the proposed improvements were prepared, and this analysis was coupled with reasonable options, including Port Columbus, Bolton Field, and Delaware County, the inevitable conclusion would be a no – build recommendation.

I further agree that the academic needs of the University are not furthered by the proposed improvements. I thought that the report might have expanded on this issue a

little more, particularly since, as I recall, Dean Baeslack stated that the expansion project would be driven by academic need. There is simply no relationship between the academic mission of the airport and the proposed expansion.

The studies on how aircraft noise interferes with learning have been ongoing. Most of these studies were done in Europe. Unfortunately the FAA and the US EPA have failed to give recognition to these studies and have generally failed to protect our children from the impacts of airport noise.

The fact remains that neither capacity needs, safety concerns, nor academics justify the proposed expansion. The WOOSE report does a good job of presenting an organized analysis of many of the primary issues. Once a thorough environmental analysis is completed the City of Worthington should be in a good position to take a stand on the proposed expansion.

Sincerely,

David W. Zoll

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