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December 3, 2025

Honorable Laura Findorff
c/o Meadow Lake Airport Association
13625 Judge Orr Road
Meadow Lake Airport
Peyton, CO 80831

TRANSMITTED VIA EMAIL TO MEADOW LAKE AIRPORT ASSOCIATION

Re: AOPA Supports Request for Injunctive Relief – Case 2025CV032624 -- Meadow Lake Airport Association v. Ferguson, Daniel S.

Dear Judge Findorff:

On behalf of our almost 9,000 members residing in the state of Colorado including the over 300 members that consider Meadow Lake airport their home base, in the strongest terms we request that you grant subject request for injunctive relief RE: Case# 2025CV032624. For your reference, the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) is the largest aviation membership organization in the world, representing hundreds of thousands of pilots and aircraft owners.

Not only do we question the administrative approval for the development *prior* to an FAA determination on the matter, but we also have serious concerns about the development approval potentially conflicting with state sunshine laws and specifically, CRS 43-10-113 (Safe Operating Areas Around Airports). Specifically, in paragraph 2 of this section of CO state code states **“Governmental entities with zoning and building permit authority SHALL adopt and enforce, at a minimum, rules and regulations to protect the land areas defined in 14 CFR part 77.”**

Aviation-Related Considerations

- Site location is directly in line with Meadow Lake’s primary runway, less than half mile
- Both turbines penetrate the 20-1 visual approach slope to Runway 15 and will cause pilots to adjust flightpath laterally and vertically in a steeper “unstable” approach
- The visual guidance provided by the PAPI (Precision Approach Path Indicator) lights, already at 3.5 degrees (vs normal 3 degree), will be rendered unusable due to the wind turbine interference
- Both structures penetrate the Part 77 surfaces for the airport (FAA protected airspace) and will cause significant impact to both instrument approach procedures to the airport (straight-in, circle-to-land, and missed approach)

- Conflicts with takeoffs and departures from Runway 33
- Significant negative impact on high use training airport (civilian and military) --Almost 500 based aircraft ... USAFA (Flying Team, Aero Club, 557th T-532, UV-18) ... 5 flight schools at Colorado Springs airport as well as numerous others up and down the Front Range
- Construction of these proposed wind turbine towers would also violate all known Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) guidance on compatible land use near airports. Some of those references follow:
- [FAA Advisory Circular 150/5190-4B](#) (Airport Land Use Compatibility Planning) which focuses on comprehensive airspace protection from physical obstructions, land use compatibility around airports, zoning, planning, and development policies

The Airport Cooperative Research Program (ACRP) also provides a wealth of information on how community leaders can ensure their airports remain safe for users and shield communities from potential lawsuits. Some ACRP resources on this subject include but are not limited to [ACRP 206 - Guidebook on Effective Land Use Compatibility Planning Strategies for GA Airports](#) as well as ACRP reports 27 (Vols I and II), 32, and 38. Our own [AOPA Guide for Airport Advocates](#) although designed for airport advocates, is also instructional to zoning authorities in particular as it highlights past cases where zoning decisions did not adequately address compatibility concerns

Meadow Lake airport is also a key economic driver for the county and the state. The 2025 Colorado Department of Transportation, Aeronautics Division-sponsored economic impact study reflects the following:

Total Economic Activity: \$54.1 million
On-Airport Activities: \$45.5 million
Visitor Spending: \$8.6 million
Jobs Supported: 248
Total Payroll: \$16.8 million
Total Value Added: \$29.2 million

As an aviation advocacy organization our focus is aviation safety and airport-related commerce. Having said that, we also have serious concerns that the apparent lack of transparency through this process may not have allowed appropriate/adequate due process for the surrounding communities to have their say on the construction of something that will have such a significant impact. A few known impacts on communities as a result of wind turbine tower construction include but are not limited to the following:

Health and Quality of Life Concerns

- Noise Pollution: Turbines generate constant mechanical and aerodynamic noise, including low-frequency “infrasound,” which has been linked to sleep disturbances, headaches, and stress-related health issues

Page 3 of 4

- Shadow Flicker: Rotating blades can cast moving shadows on homes and yards, causing visual discomfort and potential mental health impacts

Property Value and Economic Impact

- Reduced Property Values: Studies and anecdotal evidence suggest homes near large turbines often experience significant drops in market value due to noise, aesthetics, and perceived health risks
- Tourism and Scenic Loss: In areas that rely on natural beauty for tourism, turbines can damage the visual landscape, threatening local economies

Environmental and Wildlife Risks

- Bird and Bat Fatalities: Turbine blades kill thousands of birds and bats annually, including migratory and endangered species, disrupting ecosystems
- Habitat Disruption: Construction requires large clearings, roads, and transmission lines, fragmenting habitats and altering local ecosystems

Safety and Structural Concerns

- Blade Throw and Ice Shedding: In rare cases, turbine blades or ice can detach and be thrown hundreds of feet, posing risks to nearby residents and property
- Fire Hazards: Electrical faults in turbines can lead to fires, which are difficult to extinguish at such heights

Visual and Community Impact

- Industrialization of Rural Areas: 300-foot turbines dominate skylines, creating visual pollution and altering the character of neighborhoods
- Community Division: Projects often benefit developers and landowners financially, while neighbors bear the negative impacts, leading to social conflict

I over 86 years of pilot and airport advocacy, failure to follow compatible land use doctrine has often led to a variety of unintended, and in some cases, tragic consequences. **Please immediately grant this request for injunctive relief** to help ensure this project receives the benefit of full and open participation by the public at large and surrounding community in the El Paso County planning and zoning process.

Please feel free to contact me via phone or email if you have any questions on this or any other matter regarding general aviation at e: brad.schuster@aopa.org t: 202-851-7502.

Sincerely,

**AOPA Supports Request for Injunctive Relief – Case 2025CV032624 -- Meadow Lake
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Page 4 of 4

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'BSA', is positioned above the printed name and title.

Brad Schuster, C.M.
Northwest Mountain Region Manager
Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association