

What commenters have to say on the airport expansion

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As of this week, the Taos County Planning Department had received dozens of comments regarding the Taos airport expansion. Below are excerpts from some of those comments.

"I care about global climate change of which jet fuel expenditure is a major player. We need a sustainable local economy based on renewable energy, home-grown agriculture, local permanent jobs. We need for the money to stay here in the community, not catering to the wealthy who will fly in and out on corporate jets without investing in the local economy."

—Dianne Pola

"Let's get this airport expansion done. Change seems to take decades in Taos. The economy is in trouble, every little bit helps, even the temporary jobs will help, plus the citizens will reap the benefits of a better airport directly or indirectly."

—Tim Henson

"On the one hand, I'm hoping the expansion doesn't happen as it's likely to ruin the area with noise, more traffic, etc. but [my] main concern is low-flying military ... On the other hand, it's possible land values would go up as hotels etc. may want to move into the area, in which case I may be sitting on a gold mine."

—Aleta Mason

"My land is in the direct flight path of the new crosswind runway. I have lived, bought land and invested in Taos County for over 30 years. Taos County is my home and I will never leave ... There is absolutely zero impact to me and my land from the new runway. Actually, it is the opposite. ONLY POSITIVE IMPACT."

—Al Johnson

"It saddens me to think how much bad publicity our awesome little town will get — worldwide. Do you understand that you will be shutting down the world's only fully sustainable community [the Earthships]? Do you have any idea how many people are trying to replicate this all over the world? Do you want organizations like Anonymous digging around? Do you want Amy Goodman interviewing you about this?"

—Heidi Lehrer

"Your department has worked for years with developers such as Mark Yaravitz and Dave Mitchell to create subdivisions for residential housing in the precise location where the proposed airport is to be situated. Much money has been spent on road improvements and utilities on the affected areas of the mesa and all with the tacit approval of the county planning department. I personally own two buildable parcels and a home, all of which will be located at the end of the runway if it should ever be constructed ... The proposed runway is of course as sensitive and consistent with the tranquility of the mesa as an elephant rampaging through a fine china gallery!"

—Edward Sylvester