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| 4 |  |
| 5 |  |
| 6 | NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING |
| 7 | FOR PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS AT |
| 8 | SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL AIRPORT |
| 9 | MAHASKA COUNTY, IOWA |
| 10 |  |
| 11 | as moderated by Greg Milani at 6:00 |
| 12 | p.m. on the 22 nd day of November, 2016 at |
| 13 | Oskaloosa High School, George Daily |
| 14 | Auditorium, 1816 North 3rd Street, Oskaloosa, |
| 15 | Iowa. |
| 16 |  |
| 17 |  |
| 18 |  |
| 19 |  |
| 20 |  |
| 21 | Reported by: Erin Hines, CSR, RPR |
| 22 |  |
| 23 |  |
| 24 |  |
| 25 |  |


| 1 | MR. MILANI: If anybody is out in |
| :---: | :---: |
| 2 | the back and wants to come in, I'll give you |
| 3 | two seconds to get in here. I'm Greg Milani. |
| 4 | I'm an attorney. I practice in Centerville |
| 5 | and Ottumwa primarily. I also do some |
| 6 | mediations and am the Appanoose County |
| 7 | Magistrate, a little bit about who I am. |
| 8 | This is Erin Hines. She's the |
| 9 | court reporter. She will take down |
| 10 | everything that is said tonight. And then |
| 11 | that will be forwarded on to the FAA. I have |
| 12 | kind of some notes that I want to get |
| 13 | through. I'll basically read them to you |
| 14 | because I want to make sure I get all of the |
| 15 | high points, and then we'll get started with |
| 16 | the comments. |
| 17 | This hearing is a requirement of |
| 18 | the FAA and is part of the South Central |
| 19 | Regional Airport Agency's development of an |
| 20 | airport. If you're here for the poetry |
| 21 | reading, you're in the wrong auditorium. I |
| 22 | assume you're all here for this -- for |
| 23 | this -- these comments. |
| 24 | As most of you are aware, the south |
| 25 | Central Regional Airport Agency was formed by |


| 1 | a 28E agreement between Mahaska County, the |
| :---: | :---: |
| 2 | City of Oskaloosa, and the City of Pella to |
| 3 | develop and build an airport supporting the |
| 4 | Southeast Iowa region. As a part of this |
| 5 | process, the FAA requires an Environmental |
| 6 | Assessment of the proposed airport location. |
| 7 | The draft Environmental Assessment, or EA as |
| 8 | it's called, has been available now for |
| 9 | several weeks for public review. |
| 10 | As a part of this public review, we |
| 11 | are conducting a hearing for comments from |
| 12 | you, the public. I have a few ground rules. |
| 13 | Understand I'm simply the moderator. I have |
| 14 | no stake in this matter. I won't participate |
| 15 | in any decision making. And I'm not here to |
| 16 | answer questions or submit questions. This |
| 17 | isn't a question-and-answer session. You'll |
| 18 | be allowed to make comments on your position, |
| 19 | and those comments will be submitted to the |
| 20 | FAA. |
| 21 | We have right now 11 people signed |
| 22 | up to speak. We will give you the |
| 23 | opportunity if after you've heard people |
| 24 | comment and you want to sign up to make |
| 25 | comments. After that we'll give you one more |


| 1 | opportunity to sign up. Everybody is going |
| :---: | :---: |
| 2 | to have one opportunity to speak. So far the |
| 3 | 11 people that have signed up, we'll walk -- |
| 4 | work you through those. |
| 5 | You're going to be limited to three |
| 6 | minutes for your remarks. I'm going to ask |
| 7 | that when you come up to the microphone, you |
| 8 | state your name and then spell it for the |
| 9 | record, so the court reporter can get it |
| 10 | down. She's going to try to take everything |
| 11 | down that you say. So if you have a habit |
| 12 | like I do to speak a little fast, just kind |
| 13 | of slow down, so she can make sure she gets |
| 14 | it all taken accurately. |
| 15 | I went through that. Also, |
| 16 | remember if you have other comments or |
| 17 | comments come up, you have thoughts that come |
| 18 | up during this hearing, so to speak, you can |
| 19 | submit those in writing. I'll read the |
| 20 | notice and it tells you where you can submit |
| 21 | those writings to. I'm going to ask |
| 22 | everybody to be respectful. I don't |
| 23 | anticipate any problems there. We don't want |
| 24 | outbursts or public comment, other than from |
| 25 | the persons who are giving the public comment |


| 1 | at the microphones. |
| :---: | :---: |
| 2 | Once we're done with this hearing, |
| 3 | Erin's going to prepare a transcript of the |
| 4 | testimony. All those comments will -- from |
| 5 | the public hearing and the transcript will be |
| 6 | submitted to the FAA. Then a detailed |
| 7 | response to those issues -- basically, there |
| 8 | will be a summary of those issues and then a |
| 9 | detailed response will be prepared. And that |
| 10 | will be attached to the -- to the |
| 11 | Environmental Assessment document. |
| 12 | Upon review of the Environmental |
| 13 | Assessment document, that's with the public |
| 14 | comments, then the FAA will make a |
| 15 | determination. They'll make one of two |
| 16 | findings. The one will be a finding of no |
| 17 | significant impact, which I think they call a |
| 18 | FONSI, $\mathrm{F}-\mathrm{O}-\mathrm{N}-\mathrm{S}-\mathrm{I}$. And if they do that, then |
| 19 | they -- that means there will be no -- sorry |
| 20 | about that. They'll determine basically with |
| 21 | the FONSI that there will be -- there is no |
| 22 | significant impact. Or they may find that |
| 23 | there is an impact and they'll issue an EIS, |
| 24 | which is an environmental impact statement. |
| 25 | And they'll say that that's needed because |


| 1 | the proposed actions have significant impact. |
| :---: | :---: |
| 2 | Now I'm required to read the notice |
| 3 | of hearing for the record. And after that |
| 4 | I'll start calling people's numbers. Notice |
| 5 | of public hearing for proposed improvements |
| 6 | of South Central Regional Airport, Mahaska |
| 7 | County, Iowa. The South Central Airport |
| 8 | Agency, SCRAA, intends to undertake the |
| 9 | following proposed actions at the proposed |
| 10 | South Central Regional airport: Acquire 582 |
| 11 | acres of land in fee title; disconnect county |
| 12 | Road 220 th Street, construct primary runway, |
| 13 | that's runway $14 / 32$, paved-concrete, 100 feet |
| 14 | in width and 6,700 feet in length; equip the |
| 15 | primary runway with high intensity threshold |
| 16 | and edge lights, visual glide slope indicator |
| 17 | lights and lighted wind indicators; construct |
| 18 | the full parallel taxiway 35 feet in width to |
| 19 | serve the primary runway, install taxi-way |
| 20 | edge lights and airfield guidance signage; |
| 21 | construct terminal apron to accommodate 18 |
| 22 | airplanes; construct vehicle access from |
| 23 | Highway 163 via 220 th Street to the terminal |
| 24 | building and aircraft hangers; construct |
| 25 | terminal building; construct Fixed Based |


| 1 | Operator, FBO, maintenance facility; |
| :---: | :---: |
| 2 | construct aircraft storage facilities for 52 |
| 3 | aircraft; install aboveground fuel storage |
| 4 | tanks and dispensing equipment; provide |
| 5 | water, sanitary sewer, electrical, and |
| 6 | communication services; install airport |
| 7 | rotating beacon light and Automated Weather |
| 8 | Observing Systems, it's an AWOS; remove trees |
| 9 | and other obstructions, install perimeter and |
| 10 | security fencing, plant trees and shrubs to |
| 11 | screen terminal area development from |
| 12 | adjacent property that is potentially |
| 13 | eligible for listing on the National Register |
| 14 | of Historic Places, the NRHP; rough grade |
| 15 | crosswind runway, that would be Runway 10/28, |
| 16 | 120 feet in width and 4,380 feet in length, |
| 17 | paving and lighting of crosswind runway is |
| 18 | anticipated in ten-plus years; develop new |
| 19 | instrument approach procedures to Runway 14 |
| 20 | and 32; install approach light system on |
| 21 | Runway 32; close the existing Pella Municipal |
| 22 | Airport, dispose of airport assets and |
| 23 | convert existing site to non-aeronautical |
| 24 | uses; close the existing Oskaloosa Municipal |
| 25 | Airport, dispose of airport assets and |


| 1 | convert existing site to non-aeronautical |
| :---: | :---: |
| 2 | uses. |
| 3 | We are providing a notice of public |
| 4 | hearing where we will address the proposed |
| 5 | actions, potential economic, social, and |
| 6 | environmental impacts. In addition, we will |
| 7 | address the project's consistency with the |
| 8 | goals and objectives of the affected area's |
| 9 | land use or planning strategy. |
| 10 | Second page. Potential affected |
| 11 | environmental resources include prime |
| 12 | farmland, wetlands, waters of the US, |
| 13 | historic properties. An adverse effect to a |
| 14 | historic property is being mitigated through |
| 15 | a Project Programmatic Agreement, or PPA, per |
| 16 | section 106 of the National Historic |
| 17 | Preservation Act. That's the NHPA. |
| 18 | The public hearing will be held at |
| 19 | the following time and place: November 22 , |
| 20 | 2016 at 6:00 p.m., the Oskaloosa High School, |
| 21 | George Daily Auditorium, 1816 North 3rd |
| 22 | Street, Oskaloosa, Iowa. |
| 23 | The draft Environmental Assessment, |
| 24 | EA, describing the proposed actions and |
| 25 | impacts will be available for public review. |

The draft EA may be reviewed at the Pella Public Library, 603 Main Street, Pella, Iowa; the Oskaloosa Public Library, 301 South Market Street, Oskaloosa, Iowa; Pella City Hall, 825 Broadway Street, Pella, Iowa; Oskaloosa City Hall, 220 South Market Street, Oskaloosa, Iowa; Mahaska County Courthouse, 106 South First Street, Oskaloosa, Iowa; SCRAA Website, that's www.scraaiowa.com; City of Pella Website, www.cityofpella.com; or the City of Oskaloosa Website, www.oskaloosaiowa.org.

Those wishing to submit written comments must do so to the South Central Regional Airport Agency, 825 Broadway, Pella, Iowa 50219, or Scott Tener, Federal Aviation Administration, Room 364, Kansas City, Missouri 64106. With the comment letter postmarked no later than November 29, 2016.

Those wishing to submit comments electronically may do so via the South Central Regional Airport Agency Website, www.scraaiowa.com. Electronic comments must be received on or before November 29, 2016. Before including your address,

| 1 | phone number, e-mail address, or other |
| :---: | :---: |
| 2 | personal identifying information in your |
| 3 | comment, be advised that your entire comment, |
| 4 | including your personal identifying |
| 5 | information, may be made pubically available |
| 6 | at any time. While you can ask us in your |
| 7 | comment to withhold from public review your |
| 8 | personal identifying information, we cannot |
| 9 | guarantee that we will be able to do so. |
| 10 | That is the end of the public |
| 11 | notice. Those two addresses -- and those |
| 12 | notices are all over, you can find them, are |
| 13 | where you can submit your written comments if |
| 14 | you have any after the meeting tonight. |
| 15 | I will start. Everybody who wants |
| 16 | to comment has three minutes to do so. I've |
| 17 | got a timer up here. I don't know what |
| 18 | happens when it hits three minutes, but I'll |
| 19 | try to give you an idea that you're close to |
| 20 | there as you're commenting. We have two |
| 21 | microphones. Oh, we've got more numbers. |
| 22 | All right. Okay. |
| 23 | We have two sets of microphones. |
| 24 | Whichever one is closest, walk up to. We'll |
| 25 | start with No. 1. Whoever has card No. 1, |


| 1 | please come forward. Please state your name |
| :---: | :---: |
| 2 | and spell your last name at least for the |
| 3 | record. |
| 4 | BETH DANOWSKY: My name is Beth |
| 5 | Danowsky, spelled D-a-n-o-w-s-k-y. I work at |
| 6 | Musco and appreciate the opportunity to be |
| 7 | here tonight to share a perspective in |
| 8 | support of the project on behalf of our team. |
| 9 | I'm going to read a prepared statement. We |
| 10 | will also provide that for you in writing. |
| 11 | The airport project provides air |
| 12 | travel supported by Musco because the Musco |
| 13 | team supports community. The team supports |
| 14 | the airport because Oskaloosa, Pella, and |
| 15 | rural areas around the communities need the |
| 16 | airport. For the community, both city and |
| 17 | rural, the issues are jobs, taxes, and |
| 18 | agriculture. |
| 19 | Number one, jobs. The US census |
| 20 | shows Mahaska County has a population of |
| 21 | 22,400 with 12,000 residents in the labor |
| 22 | force. Manufacturing is the largest employer |
| 23 | providing jobs for 24 percent of all workers. |
| 24 | Agriculture is the smallest employment |
| 25 | sector. Oskaloosa and Pella rank No. 2 and |

No. 4 in the state as having the highest percentage of workers employed in manufacturing.

Over the last year, Musco flew a total of 834 passenger hours on our planes taking team members to meet customers or bringing customers into the community. It takes about five times longer to fly commercially when you consider drive time, check in, layovers, and stay overs.

For Mahaska, using our planes versus flying commercially means 3,328 passenger hours saved. That's the equivalent of 493 workdays, 83 workweeks, and almost two years of work time saved.

The second factor are trips that we couldn't make and missed opportunities due to the time constraints when trying to fly commercially. A third factor is the value of being able to accommodate visitor schedules, resulting in 81 guests who otherwise would not have been able to visit our facilities in Iowa over the past year. These visits are multimillion dollar business issues that form a foundation for multi-year business

| 1 | projects. |
| :---: | :---: |
| 2 | In short, our interaction with |
| 3 | customers is not possible without planes. |
| 4 | Our interactions with customers is the |
| 5 | foundation of our business. Aviation will be |
| 6 | a growing need for existing and perspective |
| 7 | entities in our area going forward. If we |
| 8 | want to maintain our positive -- our position |
| 9 | as a leader in manufacturing, we need to - |
| 10 | we need to invest in facilities that |
| 11 | businesses need to succeed. |
| 12 | No. 2, taxes. Aviation fuel tax |
| 13 | revenue is used to fund airport capital cost. |
| 14 | A shared airport will use fewer tax dollars |
| 15 | than are currently being spent on two |
| 16 | existing airports. A reduction in land -- a |
| 17 | reduction in land use for airports from 729 |
| 18 | to 583 acres will put 146 acres back into |
| 19 | production. Businesses that use the airport |
| 20 | invest in commercial buildings to operate |
| 21 | those companies pay $\$ 2,814$ in taxes for a |
| 22 | 100,000 market value property. Agriculture |
| 23 | land valued at $\$ 100,000$ pay $\$ 2,716$ and |
| 24 | businesses -- and a business employee |
| 25 | living -- |


| 1 | MR. MILANI: Ms. Danowsky, |
| :---: | :---: |
| 2 | that's -- your three minutes are up. If |
| 3 | you'd -- |
| 4 | MS. DANOWSKY: All right. |
| 5 | MR. MILANI: -- finish it up |
| 6 | quickly. |
| 7 | MS. DANOWSKY: Thank you very much. |
| 8 | MR. MILANI: Also, Ms. Danowsky, I |
| 9 | didn't ask you for your address, but I think |
| 10 | we want you -- could you just state your |
| 11 | address for the record as well? |
| 12 | MS. DANOWSKY: Yes. |
| 13 | MR. MILANI: What is it? |
| 14 | MS. DANOWSKY: 100 First Avenue, |
| 15 | Oskaloosa. |
| 16 | MR. MILANI: Thank you. We'll have |
| 17 | No. 2 next. |
| 18 | Please state your name. |
| 19 | MR. REMPE: Jack Rempe. |
| 20 | MR. MILANI: And your address, |
| 21 | Mr. Rempe? |
| 22 | MR. REMPE: Yes. |
| 23 | MR. MILANI: Your address? |
| 24 | MR. REMPE: 2274 Dean Avenue. |
| 25 | MR. MILANI: And the spelling of |


| 1 | the last name? |
| :---: | :---: |
| 2 | MR. REMPE: $\quad$ - $-\mathrm{e}-\mathrm{m}-\mathrm{p}-\mathrm{e}$. |
| 3 | MR. MILANI: Thank you. |
| 4 | MR. REMPE: I would like to address |
| 5 | this to the SCRAA board. To the board |
| 6 | members, you were chosen from a larger entity |
| 7 | to do a job which required you to try to |
| 8 | convince the public that the regional airport |
| 9 | would be a great asset to Pella and |
| 10 | Oskaloosa. During this time, you quietly |
| 11 | have had the 28E agreement passed without the |
| 12 | landowners even knowing this. You tried many |
| 13 | times to construct an airport with the public |
| 14 | overwhelmingly letting you know they are |
| 15 | against it. But yet you decide to take the |
| 16 | job on to do the dirty work of corporations, |
| 17 | plowing ahead to get what they want at any |
| 18 | cost to landowners and the taxpayers of the |
| 19 | two cities. |
| 20 | I have sat through many meetings as |
| 21 | these citizens gave speeches of how this |
| 22 | affects their livelihood. The tax burden on |
| 23 | everyone, the unnecessary need for such an |
| 24 | airport. Yet, all -- yet, all you sat there, |
| 25 | heads down, pretending to be writing |


| 1 | something down. No questions were allowed to |
| :---: | :---: |
| 2 | be answered. Did any of you ever say or |
| 3 | think once maybe we shouldn't do this to |
| 4 | these people? |
| 5 | Free, that's what you said about |
| 6 | this airport. It's free. Get the money from |
| 7 | the government. Sure. You can get the |
| 8 | funding for the construction, but then what? |
| 9 | Jobs, well, maybe a few employees. Nothing |
| 10 | more than what is being employed at the |
| 11 | existing airports. The two corporate jets |
| 12 | may use this. And then maybe a few hobby |
| 13 | airplane enthusiasts. What then? Who pays |
| 14 | to keep this airport going? Well, the |
| 15 | residents of Pella and Oskaloosa, of course. |
| 16 | Oh, by the way, the ones that couldn't vote |
| 17 | on this. Why not? |
| 18 | Well, right now farming of these |
| 19 | acres employs hundreds, from the banks, seed |
| 20 | company, fertilizer, fuel, tile, dozer, |
| 21 | labor, machinery, you name it, grain |
| 22 | companies, on and on. But yet tell me |
| 23 | converting these highly productive acres with |
| 24 | cement will bring more jobs to Mahaska |
| 25 | County. We already know that you have a |


| 1 | no-care attitude about the families that it |
| :---: | :---: |
| 2 | will affect, Century Farms or Heritage Farms |
| 3 | that it will destroy. They have all stated |
| 4 | their cases with you over and over. No given |
| 5 | reaction at all. |
| 6 | Well, I am saying now is take a |
| 7 | small amount of loss that you will have, |
| 8 | repair the two communities faith in each |
| 9 | other. This airport is a fail for them and |
| 10 | will never be what you sold it to be, ever. |
| 11 | Stop it now and do the right thing. This is |
| 12 | a good wake up call. |
| 13 | MR. MILANI: Your time is up, sir. |
| 14 | Perfect timing. |
| 15 | MR REMPE: Thank you. |
| 16 | MR. MILANI: No. 3. |
| 17 | MR. KRUTZFELDT: My name is David |
| 18 | Krutzfeldt. The last name is spelled |
| 19 | K-r-u-t-z-f-e-l-d-t. And my address is 2415 |
| 20 | McMullin Drive in Oskaloosa. |
| 21 | And I speak from a perspective of |
| 22 | my position as Mayor of Oskaloosa. First of |
| 23 | all, thank you very much for the opportunity |
| 24 | to speak this evening. Back in 2012, the |
| 25 | Oskaloosa City Council, Pella City Council, |


| 1 | and Mahaska County supervisors all came to a |
| :---: | :---: |
| 2 | unanimous agreement that it was in our best |
| 3 | interest to take action on the construction |
| 4 | of the new airport. The reasoning was varied |
| 5 | among members, but with the Oskaloosa Airport |
| 6 | being possible, but there wasn't as much |
| 7 | flight time as we would like. We were |
| 8 | hearing comments like it's a farm that, by |
| 9 | the way, can function as an airport. |
| 10 | The Pella City Council showed that |
| 11 | their airport however was quite busy, but |
| 12 | they couldn't expand it the way they would |
| 13 | like. They had some developmental concerns, |
| 14 | but they were primarily safety. So it made |
| 15 | sense to us to share our resources to create |
| 16 | a single airport that better served our |
| 17 | mutual interest. |
| 18 | Closing two individual city |
| 19 | airports for the benefit of sharing one is a |
| 20 | win-win for the communities in addition to |
| 21 | helping the FAA in the sense that it would be |
| 22 | supporting one less airport that would be |
| 23 | safer and more efficient. |
| 24 | Mahaska County supervisors |
| 25 | recognized at the time this would be a |


| 1 | long-term economic benefit to the region |
| :---: | :---: |
| 2 | because economic viability of the county is |
| 3 | quite dependent on the economic viability of |
| 4 | the cities, both within and around it. |
| 5 | So I think we can agree that the |
| 6 | economic sustainability of the region |
| 7 | requires a blend of services to be available |
| 8 | for both citizens and their businesses. Good |
| 9 | highways and airports are part of that. |
| 10 | Shortly after the creation of the |
| 11 | 28E agreement, the majority of the Oskaloosa |
| 12 | City Council members and mayor were up for |
| 13 | reelection. The opposing candidates held up |
| 14 | opposition to the airport as their primary |
| 15 | campaign issue and the incumbents defended |
| 16 | their position. After the vote was taken, |
| 17 | all of the incumbents were reelected by |
| 18 | margins of 57 percent to 43 percent or |
| 19 | better. |
| 20 | And so Oskaloosa continues to |
| 21 | support the development of the airport. Big |
| 22 | projects like this though aren't without |
| 23 | controversy and adversity, and that's the way |
| 24 | our democracy works. So I would like to |
| 25 | compliment the members of the SCRAA. They |


| 1 | have paid attention to detail, kept |
| :---: | :---: |
| 2 | everything legal, have been faithful in |
| 3 | keeping the project progressing. From time |
| 4 | to time, they've been on the receiving end of |
| 5 | criticism when all they're doing is their |
| 6 | appointed job. |
| 7 | So to conclude as I look around the |
| 8 | room, there's a lot of us here that have some |
| 9 | gray hair like $I$ do and maybe not even be |
| 10 | around thirty years from now. However, the |
| 11 | people younger than us in this region will be |
| 12 | around. And I believe if they look back to |
| 13 | this time, they will thank us for the |
| 14 | long-term vision we had in getting this |
| 15 | airport built. Thank you again for the |
| 16 | privilege. |
| 17 | MR. MILANI: Thank you. No. 4. |
| 18 | Please just state your name. |
| 19 | MR. DEROI (ph): My name is John |
| 20 | DeRoi, address 1883 220th Street. I will |
| 21 | begin with I'm one of the landowners apart of |
| 22 | the regional airport of which I am opposed. |
| 23 | This all began with a study, the airport |
| 24 | assessment, which ended up from the 28E |
| 25 | agreement, prove the majority voted of the |


| 1 | Mahaska County Board of Supervisors. |
| :---: | :---: |
| 2 | Previously, this was voted down on |
| 3 | a public vote, but Mahaska County failed to |
| 4 | attend 30 percent plus margin majority. I am |
| 5 | not opposed to the use of the 28E agreement |
| 6 | if used for the right reasons. I believe |
| 7 | that the proposed regional airport is not a |
| 8 | necessity, but a want by a few and not a |
| 9 | need. |
| 10 | The proposed area for the regional |
| 11 | airport has one heritage farm and two Century |
| 12 | farms, 160 years and 140 years and 118 years |
| 13 | respectively, which means a lot to its |
| 14 | owners. The heritage farm also includes a |
| 15 | prime cemetery that is still active and does |
| 16 | make it a finer (ph) cemetery, which makes it |
| 17 | historical. |
| 18 | The end result is possibility of |
| 19 | taking prime land, farm may never grow crops |
| 20 | again, from its owners against their will by |
| 21 | the use of possible eminent domain. Meaning, |
| 22 | the private use rather than public use, which |
| 23 | I and others vigorously opposed. There's one |
| 24 | remark I want to make, that 220 th Street |
| 25 | passes by my property. It's heavy traveled, |


| 1 | shortcut between 163 and 63. And I see |
| :---: | :---: |
| 2 | that's a real problem with the county. |
| 3 | My end remark is -- my end remark |
| 4 | is that in all of the above, I believe in |
| 5 | truth, honesty, and a trustworthiness. Thank |
| 6 | you. |
| 7 | MR. MILANI: Thank you, sir. No. |
| 8 | 5. |
| 9 | MR. MUELLER: Good evening. And |
| 10 | thank you for this opportunity to speak. My |
| 11 | name is James Mueller, M-u-e-l-l-e-r, and I'm |
| 12 | the mayor of the City of Pella. |
| 13 | MR. MILANI: If we can have your |
| 14 | address, Mr. Mueller, for the record? |
| 15 | MR. MUELLER: Certainly. It is |
| 16 | 1008 East Second Street in Pella. When I |
| 17 | first ran for city council over |
| 18 | thirteen years ago, one of the first things I |
| 19 | became involved with was the potential |
| 20 | relocation of our municipal airport. I |
| 21 | served on a committee to review the need of a |
| 22 | new airport and the potential for upgrading |
| 23 | our existing facility. I entered this |
| 24 | committee with an open mind, but questioning |
| 25 | the need for the upgrade. After many |


| 1 | meetings, discussions, conversations with |
| :---: | :---: |
| 2 | representatives from the FAA and our |
| 3 | community business leaders, it became very |
| 4 | clear to me that this upgrade was necessary |
| 5 | and not simply just a want. |
| 6 | One of the primary responsibilities |
| 7 | of an effective and responsible government is |
| 8 | to provide safe and efficient infrastructure |
| 9 | for the benefit of our community, whether |
| 10 | it's a highway, a water plant, or in this |
| 11 | case, an airport. It is our duty to all of |
| 12 | our citizens to address those needs. |
| 13 | A redesigned airport will provide |
| 14 | you with -- (inaudible) -- safe, convenient, |
| 15 | and efficient municipal facility. The key |
| 16 | issue with our current airport is the high |
| 17 | number of Category C flights and the lack of |
| 18 | installed infrastructure to support them. |
| 19 | Even though the current airport has a |
| 20 | temporary authorization to land Category C |
| 21 | aircraft, it could be revoked at any time |
| 22 | leaving us with no ability to support the |
| 23 | current users. A new regional airport will |
| 24 | provide our local businesses with permanent, |
| 25 | safe access to efficient air travel. It will |


| 1 | also position this region as a |
| :---: | :---: |
| 2 | forward-looking business friendly area. It |
| 3 | will allow our industries to compete with |
| 4 | other companies for customers nationwide. |
| 5 | Finally, it will provide a critical |
| 6 | municipal service from many years to come. |
| 7 | Thank you very much. |
| 8 | MR. MILANI: Thank you, sir. No. |
| 9 | 6. |
| 10 | MR. DOLAND: Hello. My name is |
| 11 | Mark Doland. My address is 1802 Burlington |
| 12 | Road in Oskaloosa. I forgot what else you |
| 13 | need. |
| 14 | MR. MILANI: That's good enough. |
| 15 | You can start. |
| 16 | MR. DOLAND: I'm here -- I'm here |
| 17 | to rise in opposition of the project. I'm |
| 18 | speaking in my capacity as a Mahaska County |
| 19 | Board supervisor. There's been many |
| 20 | elections that have taken place since this |
| 21 | 28E agreement has gone into effect and was |
| 22 | passed. Shortly after my election, I had |
| 23 | brought up for a resolution a vote to remove |
| 24 | eminent domain from the 28E agreement, which |
| 25 | passed the Mahaska County Board of |


| 1 | Supervisors three to nothing unanimously. |
| :---: | :---: |
| 2 | Was -- it was determined by the City of |
| 3 | Oskaloosa and the City of Pella to leave |
| 4 | eminent domain in. |
| 5 | The project is a good one for |
| 6 | Pella. I think they do need -- they have the |
| 7 | need for an airport, but they got -- I think |
| 8 | the current existing air travel in Mahaska |
| 9 | County is functional and is successful for |
| 10 | everybody who is here and supports our |
| 11 | businesses. |
| 12 | Truth wins because in the light of |
| 13 | day always wins. I've debated this project |
| 14 | over and over with people and overwhelmingly |
| 15 | they support my position. I think the only |
| 16 | way to really find out if a project is worth |
| 17 | its weight is to put it to the vote of the |
| 18 | people. The only vote that is on record is |
| 19 | one that happened many years ago in the city |
| 20 | of Oskaloosa, which was -- overwhelmingly |
| 21 | supports my position as well, but also we |
| 22 | have a vote of representative government. |
| 23 | I was voted by many people. I |
| 24 | represent over 22,000 people in Mahaska |
| 25 | County. And the Board is turned over and I |


| 1 | would highly suspect if the -- if the current |
| :---: | :---: |
| 2 | Board -- or oncoming Board supports this |
| 3 | project. That's why I plan to, as a |
| 4 | representative of these people, bring the |
| 5 | resolution forward asking for Mahaska County |
| 6 | to withdrawal from the 28E agreement. The |
| 7 | City of Oskaloosa and the City of Pella also |
| 8 | would have to ratify and vote to allow that |
| 9 | to happen. This will be forthcoming in |
| 10 | future meetings with the Board of |
| 11 | Supervisors. Thank you. |
| 12 | MR. MILANI: Thank you. No. 7 . |
| 13 | And you may not have your card, No. 7, but do |
| 14 | you know who you are? All righty. |
| 15 | MR. BATMAN: Hello. My name is |
| 16 | David Batman, that's B-a-t-m-a-n. I've been |
| 17 | a resident here of Oskaloosa |
| 18 | forty-eight years. I believe that our |
| 19 | communities are well served by several |
| 20 | airports presently. The -- this project, in |
| 21 | my opinion, is what is commonly known as a |
| 22 | boondoggle. I would urge that the FAA use |
| 23 | their resources where they are needed and |
| 24 | wanted and not here. Thank you. |
| 25 | MR. MILANI: Thank you, sir. No. |


| 1 | 8. |
| :---: | :---: |
| 2 | MR. TIES (ph) : Hello. My name is |
| 3 | Stephen Ties, 1003 North Second Street. And |
| 4 | I have two questions that anyone won't |
| 5 | answer. Who was planning to use the -- |
| 6 | (inaudible) -- on the plan? And how many |
| 7 | jobs are going to be created by the -- at the |
| 8 | airport? How many -- (inaudible) -- need to |
| 9 | be moved in order to do the fill and cuts and |
| 10 | so on to create the airport? And where is |
| 11 | the dirt coming from and how much runoff is |
| 12 | going to create a problem with the |
| 13 | surrounding landscape around there? |
| 14 | It would appear to me there is a |
| 15 | lack of planning on Pella's part for not |
| 16 | allowing for land to expand their airport |
| 17 | just because they want to -- (inaudible) |
| 18 | doesn't seem like that lack of planning |
| 19 | should be a problem on my part to fund their |
| 20 | airport needs. I say the City of Des Moines |
| 21 | International Airport is a regional airport |
| 22 | facility and places like Chicago with an |
| 23 | international airport as a larger facility, |
| 24 | so Des Moines is a regional airport. When - |
| 25 | I think of the term regional as being a |


| 1 | larger area, I would say, in comparison to |
| :---: | :---: |
| 2 | the US -- (inaudible) -- districts in Iowa |
| 3 | and one airport per region is probably |
| 4 | sufficient. |
| 5 | One might think this is a -- this |
| 6 | overall project might be an example of what's |
| 7 | called inappropriate use of technology. And |
| 8 | the proposal as stated in the document that's |
| 9 | made available too states that so many acres |
| 10 | of land will be made available for other |
| 11 | purposes. There's no specific allowance to |
| 12 | make sure that that land would be returned |
| 13 | back to agriculture. In fact, the citizens |
| 14 | of the City of Pella plan on turning that |
| 15 | land over into a residential facility |
| 16 | community. It will never go back to |
| 17 | agriculture. |
| 18 | Times state in the form about how |
| 19 | about -- (inaudible) -- airport A and a |
| 20 | regional airport like Des Moines, Newton, or |
| 21 | Ottumwa. It's roughly an hour of travel time |
| 22 | by vehicle. I don't see that as being |
| 23 | inconvenient. I travel that far alone to get |
| 24 | to an airport. Plus, at first I travel to |
| 25 | commercialized van line and waiting and |


| 1 | waiting and waiting and waiting for it to get |
| :---: | :---: |
| 2 | on the plane. I don't feel like people at |
| 3 | this state and this city should be spending |
| 4 | lots of tax dollars, directly among local 10 |
| 5 | percent max, plus 90 percent max with the |
| 6 | Feds for the conveniences -- (inaudible). |
| 7 | Thank you. |
| 8 | MR. MILANI: Thank you, sir. No. |
| 9 | 9. |
| 10 | MR. CARTER: Once again, good |
| 11 | evening to you. My name is Jimmy Carter, |
| 12 | C-a-r-t-e-r, 316 East Glendale Road. |
| 13 | I'm one of the unfortunate ones |
| 14 | that got voted off a few years ago setting on |
| 15 | the City Council when all this was taking |
| 16 | place, but that was after the vote where it's |
| 17 | been said numerous times that it was |
| 18 | overwhelmingly voted down. What really |
| 19 | troubles me tonight, amongst one thing, I had |
| 20 | of them, three minutes to state your opinion |
| 21 | on approximately a 50 or $\$ 60$ million job |
| 22 | project. With 11 people, that's |
| 23 | thirty-three minutes you want to spend it on |
| 24 | listening to us. If there's -- if everyone |
| 25 | in this room was going to be talking, I can |


| 1 | see that. And I know you set up the |
| :---: | :---: |
| 2 | guidelines and I'm not here to -- I'm just |
| 3 | frustrated we get thirty-three minutes |
| 4 | spending on this. |
| 5 | What I think this is is a Pella |
| 6 | problem, not an Oskaloosa problem. We've got |
| 7 | 628 acres. We could add a few thousand feet, |
| 8 | 1,500 feet to our airport at a very low cost. |
| 9 | Farmers up near the airport have stated they |
| 10 | would sell the land and we could lengthen our |
| 11 | airport and solve any problems we might have |
| 12 | with our air traffic. If Pella's got a |
| 13 | problem, I feel that they need to step up to |
| 14 | the plate, fix it, buy the houses at the end |
| 15 | of their airport, and move on. It's not an |
| 16 | Oskaloosa or Mahaska County situation. I've |
| 17 | stated that. I haven't changed my opinion on |
| 18 | it. And I don't feel it's the best for our |
| 19 | community or our county in the now or present |
| 20 | future. Thank you. |
| 21 | MR. MILANI: Thank you, sir. No. |
| 22 | 10. |
| 23 | MR. DICKEY: Good evening, |
| 24 | Mr. Milani. My name is Gary Dickey, and I am |
| 25 | appearing on behalf of six landowners that |


| 1 | are affected by this proposed site. My |
| :---: | :---: |
| 2 | address is 301 East Walnut in Des Moines, |
| 3 |  |
| 4 | Campbell Law Firm. |
| 5 | The Environmental Assessment that |
| 6 | is the subject of this hearing is deficient |
| 7 | in at least four ways, and many more. I'll |
| 8 | address four in three minutes. First, Order |
| 9 | 5050.4 B specifically directs to prepare the |
| 10 | Environmental Assessment to, quote, |
| 11 | Coordinate with resource agencies, industry |
| 12 | groups, and the affected community as |
| 13 | practicable and necessary to ensure the |
| 14 | assessment addresses those issues of greatest |
| 15 | public concern. The preparers of this |
| 16 | assessment have not done that. We would |
| 17 | invite the preparers to come out, have a |
| 18 | face-to-face meeting with the affected |
| 19 | landowners. Certainly, open up a dialogue of |
| 20 | more than three minutes for these important |
| 21 | public issues. |
| 22 | The public meetings that the South |
| 23 | Central Regional Airport authority has are |
| 24 | perfunctory. They're one sided. The minutes |
| 25 | that are prepared are skeletal, do not |


| 1 | provide the public with the transparency |
| :---: | :---: |
| 2 | necessary to have a meaningful public |
| 3 | dialogue on this important issue. |
| 4 | Second, that same order also |
| 5 | directs that the preparers take into account |
| 6 | the environmental, social, economic, and |
| 7 | technical factors of the proposed action and |
| 8 | the reasonable alternatives. The 442-page |
| 9 | Environmental Assessment is noticeably |
| 10 | deficient in any type of meaningful economic |
| 11 | cost-benefit analysis. We've heard |
| 12 | individuals tonight talk about the importance |
| 13 | to the community. |
| 14 | It's a minimum estimated structure |
| 15 | of \$30 million, not to mention the ongoing |
| 16 | expenditures associated. There is nothing in |
| 17 | the assessment, nor anything on the south |
| 18 | Central Regional Airport or at least the |
| 19 | Website that identifies how there would be |
| 20 | benefits to taxpayers in excess of the cost |
| 21 | of construction and ongoing costs associated. |
| 22 | Third, the assessment vastly |
| 23 | undervalues the environmental and social |
| 24 | impact on the farmland of the -- |
| 25 | (inaudible) -- which would be 560 acres of |


| 1 | prime farmland. To illustrate this, on |
| :---: | :---: |
| 2 | April 17 of 2015, USDA sent a letter to |
| 3 | Jerald Searle strongly advocating locating |
| 4 | any proposed airport to areas that are |
| 5 | largely not prime farmland. The area that is |
| 6 | purposed is unfortunately largely prime |
| 7 | farmland and should be avoided in favor of |
| 8 | other areas with little prime farmland and |
| 9 | mostly not on farmland, unquote. |
| 10 | These are Century farms, some of |
| 11 | them as much as 150 years in the same family. |
| 12 | And with the time remaining, the fourth |
| 13 | deficiency is the failure to meaningfully |
| 14 | address the Otley Airport alternative. And |
| 15 | as the FAA knows, because we've got the |
| 16 | e-mails from Scott Tener, if this project |
| 17 | doesn't go forward, Pella will proceed with |
| 18 | its own airport in Otley. And that is not |
| 19 | addressed in this assessment because of |
| 20 | limitations that the City and Municipality |
| 21 | placed on the 28E agreement, which are |
| 22 | totally arbitrary. There is no reason why |
| 23 | the Otley Airport cannot serve purposes |
| 24 | identified in the Iowa DOT 2010 Airport |
| 25 | assessment. |


| 1 | MR. MILANI: Your time is up, sir. |
| :---: | :---: |
| 2 | Thank you. No. 11. |
| 3 | MR. REMPE: Mark Rempe, 1897 Harbor |
| 4 | Hill Drive, Pella, Iowa. First thing I want |
| 5 | to talk about is closing 220th Street. We |
| 6 | heard a lot of people talking about its |
| 7 | safety. My partners and I run our farm |
| 8 | equipment back and forth across the county. |
| 9 | And closing 220th Street is going to force us |
| 10 | to take our stuff up and down 163, probably |
| 11 | through Oskaloosa. And we don't want to be |
| 12 | on 163 any worse than anybody else wants us |
| 13 | to be on 163, so we've heard a lot about |
| 14 | safety. But we're really showing a lot of |
| 15 | traffic. We've got a lot of bad accidents |
| 16 | between semis and farm equipment going up and |
| 17 | down 163. |
| 18 | The other thing I want to talk |
| 19 | about is the -- putting an airport right |
| 20 | beside a cemetery and a water tower makes no |
| 21 | sense to me. We have setbacks to build hog |
| 22 | buildings and everything else around |
| 23 | cemeteries. And here we want to put a runway |
| 24 | right beside a cemetery, so I can't see how |
| 25 | that makes any sense. |


| 1 | And my last thing is this notch |
| :---: | :---: |
| 2 | here that my family owns, and what's that |
| 3 | house and building going to be worth if |
| 4 | the -- all these buildings back right up |
| 5 | against the 40-foot -- (inaudible)? So it |
| 6 | looks like a bad plan and a bad place. And |
| 7 | hopefully, it will get turned down. |
| 8 | MR. MILANI: Thank you, sir. I |
| 9 | don't believe we have a No. 12, but we have a |
| 10 | No. 13. |
| 11 | MR. LINN: 12. |
| 12 | MR. MILANI: Are you 12? |
| 13 | MR. LINN: Yes, I am. |
| 14 | MR. MILANI: Come on up here. |
| 15 | MR. LINN: Thank you for not |
| 16 | skipping over me. |
| 17 | MR. MILANI: State your name and |
| 18 | your address. |
| 19 | MR. LINN: Yes. My name is Myron |
| 20 | Linn. I live in Pella. Last name is spelled |
| 21 | L-i-n-n. Address, 2059 Hickory Trail in |
| 22 | Pella. |
| 23 | And good evening. And I'm very |
| 24 | pleased to be speaking on behalf of Pella |
| 25 | Corporation this evening and want to thank |

the members of the -- of the authority for allowing us to speak in favor of the airport project.
Pella Corporation considers the
regional airport transportation to be an essential tool for operating our business and our manufacturing headquarters in rural Iowa. With the inefficient and many times unreliable commercial air transportation, we consider private air transportation as a critical part of our operation. And as you know and as you've heard earlier, the Pella Corporation airport is operating under a temporary authorization to depart and land a Category C aircraft, while the FAA has strongly indicated that this is not a permanent solution and is not a permanent reclassification of the airport. At any time the FAA could rescind the temporary authorization and cause a serious problem for one of the largest businesses and larger employers in this -- in these two communities.

After several highly informed
studies, it is clear that the current airport
cannot be modified to achieve a Category C status in Pella. And with safety being the most important matter at hand, it is essential to move forward with this project. Just a couple of pieces of brief information. Pella Corporation employs over 7,000 people nationwide, many of them who use the airport to conduct their duties and their responsibilities of employment. Since 2007, Pella Corporation's aircraft has flown over 8,500 individual passengers to approximately 750,000 passenger air miles on its aircraft. And over 80 percent of these passenger air miles are non-executive travel. That means it's the kind of people who are actually working and -- on day-to-day projects that are part of our aircraft usage. Employees in engineering, maintenance, marketing, information technology, production, and factory technicians are very common. And the plane averages hundreds of flights in and out of the airport each year.

And equally, and more importantly
perhaps, are customers who periodically
travel for our manufacturing sites and

| 1 | headquarters in Pella travel by air. In many |
| :---: | :---: |
| 2 | cases, transportation is required for |
| 3 | withstanding our markets and our sales |
| 4 | through efficient air transportation. |
| 5 | And last year multiple visits by |
| 6 | customers resulted in significant sales, and |
| 7 | that provided good paying, high volume jobs |
| 8 | in our local economy. And it is clearly |
| 9 | essential that we are able to continue to |
| 10 | welcome customers to our area through safe |
| 11 | local air transportation. |
| 12 | So Pella Corporation strongly |
| 13 | supports the regional airport project as a |
| 14 | way to consolidate federal tax dollars by |
| 15 | combining two airports into one efficient |
| 16 | airport. And furthermore, it's an excellent |
| 17 | tool -- done? |
| 18 | MR. MILANI: You're done. |
| 19 | MR. LINN: I'm sorry, sir. Thank |
| 20 | you very much. And thank you. |
| 21 | MR. MILANI: Now is the opportunity |
| 22 | if you haven't had the opportunity to speak, |
| 23 | you can sign up. |
| 24 | Does anybody in here that didn't |
| 25 | get to speak before want to speak? |


| 1 | MR. LAZIO: Yes. |
| :---: | :---: |
| 2 | MR. MILANI: Why don't you come up |
| 3 | here, sir. |
| 4 | Is there anyone else? |
| 5 | MR. LAZIO: Good evening. My name |
| 6 | is Tom Lazio. I'm the mayor of Ottumwa, |
| 7 | L-a-z-i-o. I have a letter I'll submit as |
| 8 | the formal written document. However, I |
| 9 | would like to, on behalf of the City of |
| 10 | Ottumwa, express my opposition to the |
| 11 | proposed changes or improvements being |
| 12 | proposed by the South Central Regional |
| 13 | Airport committee. |
| 14 | I think the environmental, |
| 15 | financial, and social and economic factors |
| 16 | have already been enumerated tonight. I'm |
| 17 | concerned that building another regional |
| 18 | airport would endanger the viability of our |
| 19 | regional airport. I can see no logical |
| 20 | reason to evolve another regional airport |
| 21 | within thirty minutes of Ottumwa, Newton, or |
| 22 | Des Moines. |
| 23 | Our airport has the capacity to |
| 24 | serve C class jets without spending millions |
| 25 | of dollars or condemning good farmland, I've |


| 1 | heard up to 580-some acres. We already have |
| :---: | :---: |
| 2 | regional airports in Des Moines, Newton, and |
| 3 | Ottumwa that serves the region in the area. |
| 4 | In light of the new Highway 163, I think the |
| 5 | convenience factor of fifteen to |
| 6 | twenty-five minutes is not justification for |
| 7 | spending 25 or \$35 million to build another |
| 8 | facility. |
| 9 | I also would raise the question |
| 10 | of why this proposal has been pushed forward |
| 11 | without any outreach to the other airports in |
| 12 | the area. I can't see any public benefit to |
| 13 | this. If there is some benefit I'm missing, |
| 14 | I would appreciate hearing more about it. We |
| 15 | are in the process of reclaiming some |
| 16 | additional runway feet at the airport and |
| 17 | certainly can land most jets that come into |
| 18 | our community. |
| 19 | I think the money would be better |
| 20 | spent. And I would like to know what the |
| 21 | return on the investment really is. Our |
| 22 | local airport committee does not support |
| 23 | this, and they've joined me in signing a |
| 24 | letter that I'll submit. Thank you very |
| 25 | much. |


| 1 | MR. MILANI: Thank you. With that, |
| :---: | :---: |
| 2 | I would remind you that you can submit |
| 3 | written comments. You have a few more days |
| 4 | to do that. Take advice from the notice |
| 5 | about when your deadline is and how to submit |
| 6 | them. And that will close these proceedings. |
| 7 | Thanks, everyone. |
| 8 | (The public hearing concluded at |
| 9 | 6:52 p.m.) |
| 10 |  |
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| ```32:9 assessment [7] - 20:24, 31:14, 31:16, 32:17, 32:22, 33:19, 33:25 asset [1] - 15:9 assets [2]-7:22, 7:25 associated [2] - 32:16, 32:21 assume [1]-2:22 AT [1] - 1:7 attached [1]-5:10 attend [1]-21:4 attention [1] - 20:1 attitude [1] - 17:1 attorney [2]-2:4, 31:3 auditorium [1] - 2:21 Auditorium [2] - 1:14, 8:21 authority [2] - 31:23, 36:1 authorization [3] - 23:20, 36:14, 36:20 Automated [1] - 7:7 available [6] - 3:8, 8:25, 10:5, 19:7, 28:9, 28:10 Avenue [2]-14:14, 14:24 averages [1] - 37:21 Aviation [3]-9:16, 13:5, 13:12 avoided [1] - 33:7 aware [1]-2:24 AWOS [1] - 7:8 \\ B``` ```26:16 bad [3] - 34:15, 35:6 banks [1]-16:19 Based [1] - 6:25 BATMAN [1] - 26:15 Batman [1]-26:16 beacon [1]-7:7 became [2]-22:19, 23:3 began [1]-20:23 begin [1]-20:21 behalf [4]-11:8, 30:25, 35:24, 39:9 benefit [6]-18:19, 19:1, 23:9, 32:11, 40:12, 40:13 benefits [1] - 32:20 beside [2] - 34:20, 34:24``` ```26:16 bad [3] - 34:15, 35:6 banks [1]-16:19 Based [1] - 6:25 BATMAN [1] - 26:15 Batman [1]-26:16 beacon [1]-7:7 became [2]-22:19, 23:3 began [1]-20:23 begin [1]-20:21 behalf [4]-11:8, 30:25, 35:24, 39:9 benefit [6]-18:19, 19:1, 23:9, 32:11, 40:12, 40:13 benefits [1] - 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