

**A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE COMMERCIALIZATION
OF THE MOORE COUNTY AIRPORT**

WHEREAS, the Moore County Airport (a.k.a. “KSOP”) adjoins the Village of Whispering Pines, NC; and portions of the Village lie beneath or adjacent to the arrival and departure corridors of KSOP’s existing runway; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Whispering Pines is a thriving multi-generational community recognized for its high-quality residential areas, recreational opportunities, environmental resources, and natural beauty; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Whispering Pines has been settled and built around eight pristine Village-owned lakes fed by a river, streams, ground water springs, and a high-quality watershed comprised of State designated Outstanding Resource Waters; and

WHEREAS, the Village has been designated as a Tree City, USA, a Bird Sanctuary, and also provides a habitat for a variety of wildlife species, including the red-cockaded woodpecker, most notable among them a year-round resident population of waterfowl which are joined seasonally by migrating flocks; and

WHEREAS, the Moore County Airport Authority has embarked upon its plan for significant expansion of scheduled year-round Commercial Air Passenger Service (CAPS) to KSOP; and

WHEREAS, KSOP has already expressed interest in expanding their footprint to the east and has already acquired additional land to the north. This would and has removed areas within the Village that are currently zoned and maintained as rural single family use. The Village does not support nor zone for commercial/industrial use. Loss of this rural zoning is and would be an adverse impact to the character of the Village and has moved commercial/industrial zoning up against Village neighborhoods.

WHEREAS, the Council of the Village of Whispering Pines believes that Whispering Pines will disproportionately be adversely impacted more than any other area in Moore County by said plan; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Whispering Pines Land Development Ordinance (LDO) establishes residential and residential-agricultural districts whose express purpose is to prohibit commercial and industrial use of land, to prohibit any use that would substantially interfere with the continuation of single-family dwellings, to discourage any use that would create burdensome requirements and costs for public services including police and fire protection, and to discourage any use generating traffic on minor streets beyond that required to serve residents; and the LDO prohibits all commercial and other nonresidential uses not specifically authorized within recreational and residential districts; and scheduled commercial passenger air service, together with its attendant terminal, parking, ground transportation, security, and commercial vehicle activity, is categorically inconsistent with that adopted policy; and

WHEREAS, scheduled passenger-carrying operations in aircraft designed for more than nine passenger seats require the airport to hold a certificate under 14 C.F.R. Part 139, which in turn obligates the certificate holder to conduct a Wildlife Hazard Assessment and, where warranted, implement a Wildlife Hazard Management Plan; and FAA Advisory Circular 150/5200-33, as amended, establishes separation criteria of ten thousand (10,000) feet between the air operations area and hazardous wildlife attractants for airports serving turbine-powered aircraft, and five (5) statute miles where an attractant may cause hazardous wildlife movement into or across approach or departure airspace; and the lakes, dams, ponds, and open space of the Village of Whispering Pines — the defining physical and economic assets of this community, and the subject of a major ongoing public dam reconstruction investment — lie within those distances; and the Village will not accept a process that creates a federally documented basis for future pressure upon its own water bodies, dams, shoreline, or recreational open space; and

WHEREAS, Council believes that Village residents were inadequately surveyed in January 2026 on matters related to CAPS at KSOP, by the initial polling of 537 *Moore County* voters from among a base of 80,418, conducted on behalf of the Moore County Airport Authority; and

WHEREAS, the LDO provides that within the AP–Airport District, “District standards are set by the Moore County Airport Authority and the FAA”; and the Village consequently possesses no ordinance mechanism by which to condition, buffer, phase, or mitigate the impacts of a commercial passenger operation upon adjoining residential neighborhoods; and this absence of local remedy makes rigorous federal and state environmental and land use review not merely appropriate but essential, as no other forum exists in which the affected residential community can be heard; and

WHEREAS, Council has sufficiently apprised itself of principal matters and matters related to CAPS at KSOP by direct discussion with proponents, opponents, and surveyors of data and public opinion; and

WHEREAS, there have been three previous efforts to provide CAPS at KSOP since 1945, all of which failed; and

WHEREAS, Council’s findings are that a significant majority of Village residents OPPOSE expanding services at KSOP to include CAPS, and

WHEREAS, said plan will require the investment of tens of millions of taxpayer dollars, after which Village Council believes that Parties principal to said plan will *successfully* solicit, urge, and obtain additional sizeable investment in order to protect (if necessary) the initial investments; and

WHEREAS, the Village has not been provided with, and is not aware of the completion of, an environmental assessment under the National Environmental Policy Act for the proposed terminal and associated airside improvements; a noise compatibility study under 14 C.F.R. Part 150; a Part 139 certification application and accompanying Airport Certification Manual; a Wildlife Hazard Assessment; a stormwater and water quality analysis addressing the Class III/HQW watershed; or a traffic impact analysis for the designated Highway Corridor Overlay Districts; and no federal or state funding decision should be finalized upon an incomplete record.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF WHISPERING PINES, NORTH CAROLINA: that the Council of the Village of Whispering Pines is opposed to any efforts, financial or otherwise, that include instituting scheduled Commercial Air Passenger Service at the Moore County Airport, which institution may additionally risk damage to areas immediately surrounding the current infrastructure of said Airport, and urge all Parties principal to said Airport’s expansion into Commercial Air Passenger Service (including private businesses, State and Federal agencies, and governing bodies and elected and appointed representatives of Moore County and its constituent municipalities) to cease and desist in their efforts to effect such expansion.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

Section 1. The Village Council hereby formally OPPOSES the establishment of scheduled commercial passenger air service at Moore County Airport (KSOP) absent completion of, and public presentation to this Council of, each of the studies, analyses, and written commitments identified in the recitals above.

Section 2. The Village Council respectfully requests that the United States Department of Transportation, Office of Aviation Analysis, decline or defer any award under the Small Community Air Service Development Program for this project pending completion of that review, and further requests that the Department record this Resolution as evidence that the unit of local government exercising land use jurisdiction over the airport environs does not support the application.

Section 3. The Village Council respectfully requests that the Federal Aviation Administration require a full Environmental Assessment under the National Environmental Policy Act, and a noise compatibility study under 14 C.F.R. Part 150, prior to approving any federally funded or federally conditioned improvement enabling scheduled commercial passenger service at KSOP.

Section 4. The Village Council requests written assurance from the Federal Aviation Administration and the Moore County Airport Authority that no wildlife hazard mitigation measure arising from Part 139 certification will be sought, recommended, or imposed against the lakes, dams, ponds, shoreline, or recreational open space of the Village of Whispering Pines, and that the Village be provided the Wildlife Hazard Assessment upon completion.

Section 5. The Village Council requests that the Moore County Board of Commissioners and the Moore County Tourism Development Authority commit no further public funds to the Minimum Revenue Guarantee or to associated terminal construction until the reviews described herein are complete and a written exit and residual liability plan has been made public.

Section 6. The Village Council requests formal consulted-party or cooperating-agency status in all federal and state environmental, noise, and land use compatibility proceedings concerning this project, and requests a standing seat for a Village representative in any planning or stakeholder body convened in connection with commercial service at KSOP.

Section 7. The Village Council requests a binding written instrument limiting the scope of any commercial service authorization to a single daily operation of the aircraft type presently contemplated, and providing that any subsequent increase in frequency, change in aircraft type, introduction of scheduled night or cargo operations, or extension of the runway shall require renewed environmental review with formal notice to the Village.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

This Resolution was duly adopted during a special called meeting on August 17, 2026, by a motion made by Councilman Hutchinson and a second provided by Mayor Pro Tem Kaminski.

Ayes: 3

Noes: 0

Absent: 2




Linda M Christopher, Village Clerk



Pamela Harris, Mayor