

April 22, 2020
Jackson Hole Airport Board

Dear members of the Airport Board,

Thank you for adjourning your meeting to hear Wind River Air's application for helicopter tours around Grand Teton National Park when it was clear that your meeting technology wasn't working. **Please put this topic on hold until proper public noticing and participation can be guaranteed after getting through the coronavirus pandemic.**

Meetings for non-essential agenda items should not be held during a global pandemic. At this time, the public's primary concern should be their personal safety and well-being as they adapt to shelter-in-place orders and for many, the loss of their livelihoods. The only public meetings that should be held are those needed to ensure public safety or provide a public good. Matters of business that are especially controversial – such as Wind River Air's application – should be held for a more suitable time when the public is able to give attention to non-essential issues and participate.

The board had already reached this conclusion when it chose to delay the March meeting. Nothing has changed since that decision – we are still in the midst of a pandemic – with the exception of one failed attempt to host a virtual public meeting. While we appreciate that the board ran trial runs beforehand, and we expect that technology will glitch, our organizations and many of our colleagues and members were unable to watch or hear the meeting, let alone provide comment. Although the board immediately chose to adjourn, the experience was highly frustrating, and we fear that members of the public who were frustrated last week may not try to engage online again.

Lastly, we have been provided only three days' notice for the rescheduled meeting. This would seem to violate public meeting laws, and it most definitely prevents the participation of the public.

Please delay consideration of Wind River Air's permit until the pandemic is over and safe, equitable public participation can be guaranteed. The public has a right, at minimum, to provide comment face-to-face virtually to their representatives and the applicant for such a harmful and controversial proposal.

Sincerely,



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Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance



Chris Colligan
Greater Yellowstone Coalition



Sharon Mader
National Parks Conservation Association



Penelope Maldonado
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