

Ground airport expansion

The West Bend Airport expansion is the wrong project, in the wrong place at the wrong time. The expansion will benefit less than a handful of corporate executives for over \$50 million. It's hard to fathom West Bend voters would approve this government boondoggle after bulldozing the PDR and West Bend school referendums that would have benefited thousands.

The airport's economic impact is questionable and I suspect a loser when you back out government spending. Why does Washington County need two airports within thirty minutes? That's wasteful government spending. Regardless of what expansion supporters tell you this project is funded by taxpayers. Tax dollars earmarked for West Bend should be spent on a regional airport located in a better location that can reduce construction costs and environmental impact.

The airport expansion would be an expensive environmental disaster. It will destroy over 130 acres of wetlands critical to supplying the area's fresh water. Water is the most important element to life and economic growth. We should be protecting our fresh water resources, not burying them.

By helping a few corporate executives shave minutes off their drive to the airport, over 8,200 commuters a day will be diverted, the risk of car accidents will increase, a busy highway will be paved over township front yards, homes will be demolished, residents will be relocated and flight paths will be directed over our high school and growing residential neighborhoods.

We should be fiscally conservative and take advantage of the resources we've been blessed with. The Milwaukee river watershed should be protected in order to supply fresh water to West Bend and surrounding communities for generations. Washington County deserves one premier regional airport. But the West Bend airport is a relic of a bygone era and is in the wrong place at the wrong time.

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