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The Columbus Dispatch

THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH | **Opinion** | THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 2003

Don Scott expansion of runway supported

The following are points I stressed in a letter to David Elder, city manager of Worthington, to show Columbus Flight Watch's support of the north runway extension at the Don Scott Field:

Columbus Flight Watch is a group of aviation professionals dedicated to oversight of the development and maturation of the four airports within Franklin County. The organization participated in the 1991 Airport Master Plan process, as did Elder and the city of Worthington. That plan was approved, and many positive comments were received.

Its benefits include:

- **Less noise.** The proposed runway extension, with a precision Instrument Landing System east of the airport, will keep the landing aircraft higher, and in a much quieter flight mode. It was not possible to put this system to the east of the south runway.

- **Safety.** The Federal Aviation Administration recommended a runway length of 6,500 feet for the type of aircraft that Worthington Industries, Wendy's, Advanced Drainage, Jack Nicklaus and other leading businesses in central Ohio fly. It is not possible to lengthen the south runway, nor to put the full 6,500 feet on the north side.

- **Space.** Due to runway protection areas at the ends of the cross-wind runways, there is not much building area left on the south side for hangars, so the plan is to eventually move locally based aircraft to the north side, with access from Rt. 161.

- **Business convenience.** Corporate aviation brings a lot of business to central Ohio. We are only 40 minutes by air to Chicago and 45 minutes to the New York City area. Helping business meet their clients' and customers' needs benefits the whole region.

- **Convenience.** The airport is always open, even when runway maintenance or snow removal is required.

If you have flown up from Dallas, for example, you would like to be able to land where your contacts are expecting to pick you up.

ALAN HARDING
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Columbus