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Office of Air, Rail & Transit
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TO: South Dakota Aeronautics Commission
FROM: Jack Dokken, Office of Aeronautics
DATE: July 17, 2025
SUBJECT: Black Hills Fly-in Funding Request

The City of Spearfish requests the Commission's consideration of \$1,000 in support for the 2025 Black Hills Fly-In, held on September 11–14, 2025 at the Spearfish Airport (SPF). This annual event attracts aviators from across South Dakota and neighboring states, offering a unique opportunity to showcase the beauty of the Black Hills region and to promote general aviation to the public. The Fly-In has grown each year, welcoming more than 75 aircraft in 2024, with organizers anticipating an even larger turnout in 2025. The Fly-In will feature a variety of activities designed to engage both pilots and the public, including:

- Daily Fly-Outs to regional airports
- Saturday, September 13 Events:
 - 150+ Car Show
 - STOL (Short Takeoff and Landing) Demonstration
 - Aerobatic Demonstration
 - Concert and Food Trucks
 - Airplane Rides for the public

This event provides valuable exposure for aviation, encourages tourism, and strengthens community connections to local airports. The Commission has a history of supporting aviation outreach events, such as Mitchell Airport's Air Venture Race. The City of Spearfish believes the Black Hills Fly-In delivers similar statewide benefits by promoting aviation education, community engagement, and pilot participation.

The City of Spearfish requests \$1,000 in Commission funding to help offset event expenses.



South Dakota Aeronautics Commission

700 East Broadway Ave.

Pierre, South Dakota 57501

Subject : Sponsorship Request – Black Hills FlyIn

The Spearfish/Black Hills Airport is proud to announce that we hosted the Black Hills Fly-In. Previously held in Belle Fourche and Hot Springs and successfully organized by Clint Busenitz and his wife for the past 10 years, they have now passed the reins to us. We are honored to continue this tradition and are committed to building upon the success of this fantastic aviation event. We have formed a committee to take this event to the next level and are excited for the opportunity to promote aviation in the State of South Dakota.

This Fly-In attracts aviators from across South Dakota and neighboring states, showcasing the beauty of our Black Hills region and promoting aviation to the public.

Event Highlights:

- **Dates:** September 11th – 14th, 2025
- **Activities:**
 - Daily Fly-Outs to regional airports
 - **Saturday, September 13th:**
 - 200+ Car Show
 - STOL Demonstration
 - Concert
 - Food Trucks
 - Airplane Rides
 - Helicopter Rides

Eagle Aviation, LLC. at Black Hills Airport

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Our goal is not only to bring aviators together but also to engage the broader community and promote the value of aviation in our state. Given that the mission of the South Dakota Aeronautics Commission is to support and expand aviation in South Dakota, we would be honored to partner with the commission and request a sponsorship of \$1,000 to help support this year's event. Your support would directly contribute to making this a successful and impactful event for the aviation community and public alike.

As part of our commitment to giving back and growing the aviation community in South Dakota, we would like to establish a scholarship using the excess funds generated from this year's Black Hills Fly-In. Our intent is to create a scholarship opportunity for a South Dakota resident pursuing a career in aviation. This scholarship would be open to either a maintenance professional or a pilot who is actively seeking training or certification in their field.

We believe this initiative aligns with the broader mission of promoting and supporting aviation across our state, and we are excited to help contribute to the development of the next generation of aviation professionals.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing your thoughts and to further discussing this opportunity at the August meeting.

Thank you,

Channing Wagner

Board Member, Black Hills FlyIn

