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## Reader Letters | Highlands trees

I'm sorry that a few wealthy patrons are being inconvenienced by the tree situation at Bowman Field. This is not enough of a reason to compromise the property values, health and happiness of hundreds of people who live around the airport.

The Highlands area is one of the most viable neighborhoods in Greater Louisville. Hacking the trees and the subsequent noise of larger planes will impact the whole area. The executives who will benefit from this massive experiment do not live in the area.

More important, this proposal may not even work to solve the monetary problems of the airport. It loses \$1 million a year and only pays \$500,000 in tax revenue to the city. Is \$500,000 enough to take such a chance? How much does the city collect from the residents in the Highlands neighborhood?

Longer runways are needed. This airport has done a good job for 90 years, but now it is hemmed in and can't give the planes the length they need, no matter how much we are forced to give up for it. Clark County Regional Airport is their best bet. We are repairing the Sherman Minton Bridge and building another one, anyway. We don't need to take such an outlandish chance on a "maybe" proposition. The city owns that land and should reincorporate it

into Seneca and Cherokee parks.

Trees are very important for air quality. This area has lost hundreds in the recent years to drought and ice storms. Sadly, the invasive honeysuckle undergrowth in Cherokee and Seneca parks is preventing any new tree growth. Our health depends on us saving trees, not killing them. The loss of any tree is criminal.

DEANNA O'DANIEL

Louisville 40204 –

## Apt adages

Considering the present condition of Congress and its effectiveness over the past several administrations [both parties], one only needs to look at the warning, issued long ago about our government, in the Federalist essays by Alexander Hamilton, John Jay and James Madison. It states: "If angels were to govern men, neither external nor internal controls on

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government would be necessary. In framing a government which is to be administered by men over men, the great difficulty lies in this: You must first enable the government to control the governed; and in the next place oblige it to control itself.”

Perhaps, Congress should consider the old adage, “We have seen the enemy and it is us.”

ROBERT FOWLER

Louisville 40207 –

## Points about air field

I think that many valid points are getting swept under the rug or being given cursory attention on the recent issues involving Bowman Field.

If the current flight paths are unsafe then why have flights not been suspended at this airport? Second, the only mention of the Clark County airport in your articles was to say that it was inconvenient for those who use Bowman Field. The field is 15 to 20 minutes from most of metro Louisville. How convenient does it need to be?

The percentage of Louisville residents that works, plays or in any way utilizes Bowman Field can't be more than a fraction of 1 percent. There have to be more Louisville residents who live or work within one-half mile of the field who are being adversely impacted by the tree removal, building and signage requirements than everyone who uses Bowman Field within a year.

The loss of a million dollars a year has also not been properly addressed. To say the taxpayer dollars are not spent to subsidize the few businesses and individuals that utilize this field is not accurate. As I understand it, the airport is publicly, not privately, owned, and therefore any loss is a loss to the taxpayers regardless of whether this loss is covered by the operating expenses at Louisville International Airport. Reducing the operating cost of companies like UPS or usage fees for those that utilize the main airport will do much more for our local economy than biplane rides and private jets have ever done.

Finally, no one has addressed the value of this real estate, which is significant. Instead of decreasing the value of the neighborhoods around the airport we could instead lease the road frontage to commercial interests, sell some acreage for additional in-fill housing and expand Seneca Park, all of which would potentially benefit many more people than Bowman Field currently does.

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There is no environmental upside, there is no economic upside and there is no quality-of-life upside. If the airport cannot function in its current condition and cannot be profitable, then it is time to seriously consider other alternatives.

DAVID BUCHART

Louisville 40204 –

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