

MAKAYLA GALLER

My name is Makayla Galler and I am a 17-year-old high school student in Denver. I implore you to reconsider the decision to close KBDU, as this airport and the unwavering support of the Boulder aviation community have played a pivotal role in shaping my life as a pilot and my future.

In September 2020, an unforgettable moment unfolded as I embarked on my inaugural noncommercial flight through the esteemed EAA Young Eagles program. The experience was nothing short of awe-inspiring, I knew I had found my passion. At the age of 15, I was too young to apply for a single-engine scholarship, but I discovered glider scholarships as a viable alternative. This pursuit led me to the James C. Ray Foundation and Wings Over Rockies Captain Jeppesen Foundation scholarship. In May 2021, I was incredibly honored to be awarded this scholarship, which enabled me to fund my glider pilot's license at Mile High Gliding.

KBDU has been the bedrock of my aviation journey, the community has supported me at every critical juncture, from the moment I crossed paths with my first mentor, Bronson MacDonald, at Mile High Gliding, to landing my first job there, and ultimately obtaining my private pilot's license with a glider rating. This airport has been instrumental in laying the groundwork for my accomplishments, providing the essential opportunities and resources that have propelled me toward my goals. Without KBDU, these significant milestones would have remained mere aspirations.

Since earning my glider pilot rating, my passion for aviation has only intensified. I have since embarked on training for my single-engine rating. The resources and opportunities made available through KBDU have been invaluable in nurturing my growth as an aviator. Without KBDU, the trajectory of my aviation journey would have been altered, potentially limiting my potential for growth and achievement.

Closing KBDU would not only deprive current and aspiring pilots of a vital hub, but it would also sever the vibrant and supportive community that has been instrumental in my personal journey. This airport serves as a gateway for dreams to take flight, providing countless individuals with the opportunity to discover their passions and pursue careers in aviation.

As I look ahead to the future, I can't help but imagine the incredible stories I will have the privilege to share. From humble beginnings at KBDU, my ambitions extend even further, encompassing dreams of becoming an astronaut. I can envision the pride and sense of fulfillment I will feel when I recount my story, with KBDU serving as the vital starting point that set me on this path of exploration and discovery.

I humbly urge you to reconsider the closure of KBDU, recognizing the profound impact it has had on my life and the potential it holds for countless others. By preserving this airport, you will continue to foster a nurturing environment for future aviators, enabling them to soar to new heights and make their dreams a reality.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Makayla Galler
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