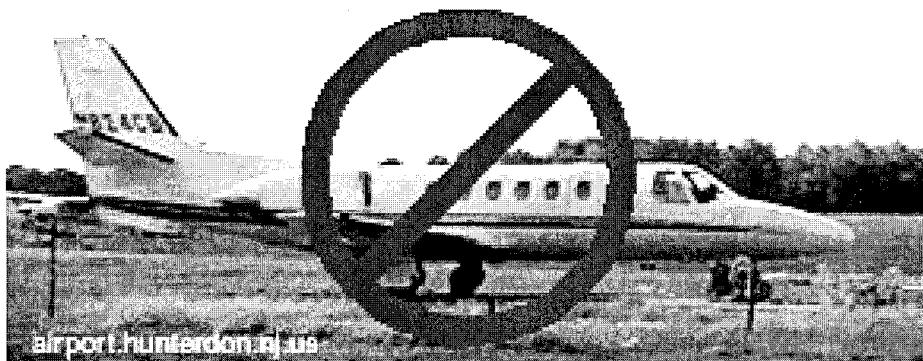


BRAAC, Branchburg Readington Airport Action Committee  
137 County Line Road  
Somerville, NJ 08876

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New Brunswick, NJ  
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BRAAC Supports the Township in its efforts to negotiate a purchase of Solberg Airport! Why?

Better to have the township buy it rather than the State or the Port Authority.

What about the cost to taxpayers?

The purchase can be made with little or no impact with the use of State Funds.

# ***The Real Facts About Solberg Airport***

## **Why have so many people been worried for decades about Solberg?**

- Solberg Airport, encompassing 730+ acres, sits on more acreage than La Guardia Airport and is located within 30 minutes of the nation's most populated metropolitan area.
- In the early 1960's, but for citizen opposition, Solberg Airport was to be designated as the New York area's 4<sup>th</sup> major jetport. It would have consumed both Readington and Branchburg.

## ***Why is Solberg Airport still a concern?***

- Solberg Aviation actively pursued expansion plans through the 90's, preparing a Master Plan and getting FAA and NJDOT approval for a major expansion in 1999.
- The 1999 expansion plans provide for expansion of a 3000 ft runway to a 4,900-foot runway, capable of accommodating business jets!
- The Solbergs say they plan to move the runway 'slightly' when they expand, failing to mention that this position will allow them to pursue a maximum 5,600 ft. runway in the future.

## ***Why should Readington Township consider buying Solberg Airport?***

- Most residents of Readington live within 5 (five) miles of this 730+ acre airport, placing them within the proposed *5-mile Warning Zone Airport Notification Area*.
- Township control is the only way to guarantee that the airport will not destroy our quality of life and property values for the financial gain of a few.
- As owner of the airport, the Township would control the airport's future, and the future would justifiably be up to those whose lives would be most affected, not those who stand to gain financially.
- The Township would preserve the surrounding land for conservation and recreation, and continue the balloon festival. The airport would be leased and revenues would support its upkeep.

## ***What about continued private ownership?***

- The Solbergs claim that the airport is not for sale. However, they are still actively attempting to sell the airport to the State at an inflated price.
- They claim that they have no plans to develop this airport or the surrounding land. That is not a believable statement since they have never taken advantage of any state preservation programs.
- Development pressure is so intense in central New Jersey it is unrealistic think that a 730 + acre tract of land will continue in a predominantly undeveloped state for much longer.
- If the airport stays in private ownership, the airport owners' expansion plans need approval from the FAA and NJDOT, and no one else. Local citizens and government **have no say!** Readington is at the mercy of the Solberg family. Would they do that to Readington?.....you bet!

## ***Why consider Township acquisition of Solberg Airport now?***

- Right now, State DEP (Garden State Preservation Trust) funding is readily available. Time is of the essence since by recent accounts this funding may be depleted by 2007.
- The current State Administration is in favor of a municipal purchase to preserve the airport, preserve the open space around the airport and not expand the runways.
- Acquisition now is better than waiting for a crisis; for instance, imagine waking up to an announcement in the morning paper that the Port Authority of NY/NJ has reached an agreement to purchase the airport as the site of the 4<sup>th</sup> major metropolitan airport.
- Acquisition can be accomplished at little or **no** impact on municipal taxes.