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Aviation Accident Investigator
Eastern Region

Date: October 16, 2024
Subject: ERA25LA014 Passenger Interview
Contact: Ted Boettner

Mr. Boettner was contacted via telephone on October 16, 2024, to discuss the accident of N1131M. The following is a summary of that conversation.

Mr. Boettner stated that they departed around 2:00pm and flew along a nearby river. The purpose the of the flight was to go sightseeing to see his house from the air. After going over his house, he stated that they flew to a different airport, landed, and refueled. After refueling, they departed and flew back to their original departing airport.

Mr. Boettner commented that he is not a pilot. He continued that as they approached for landing and were getting closer to the runway, it did not feel like they were going slow enough. He also commented that he has only landed at that airport one other time, so it was hard for him to judge how fast they were going. He also commented that it felt like they did not touch down on the runway as early as he remembered. Mr. Boettner stated that he did feel a little gust of wind from behind that pushed the airplane up and then back down. He then commented again that he felt like they were going too fast for "this little landing strip". The airplane then went off the runway to the right and into an embankment.

Mr. Boettner was asked how fast he felt they were going when they went off the runway. He replied that he thought they were going about "60mph. It was fast".

Mr. Boettner was asked how he knows the pilot. He replied that he has known the pilot for 20 years and that he works with him in a law office.

Mr. Boettner was asked who else was onboard the airplane. He replied that his son, Sidney, was onboard the airplane. He stated that his birthday is [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Mr. Boettner stated that his son broke his wrist and had a whiplash type of injury.

Mr. Boettner was asked if he was injured in the accident. He replied that he was bruised all over and that the seatbelt hit his throat. He did not break any bones.

Mr. Boettner was asked if he had talked to the pilot since the accident. He replied that he had talked to the pilot while he was in the hospital. He mentioned that the pilot told him that the flaps were not down.

Mr. Boettner provided an email address of [REDACTED]

Mr. Boettner commented that it did not feel like they were stopping okay and that he could not feel any braking action.

Mr. Boettner was asked where the airplane touched down on the runway. He replied that he believes they touched on the last $\frac{1}{2}$ or last $\frac{1}{4}$ of the runway. Mr. Boettner was then asked how often he has flown in smaller airplanes of this size. He replied this was the third time in his entire lift. The last time he flew in one this size was about 7-8 years ago.

-End of conversation