

**75th OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY - 2009 Regular Session**  
**STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**  
**Senate Committee on Business and Transportation**

**MEASURE: SJR 8**  
**CARRIER: Sen. Metsger**

**REVENUE: No revenue impact**

**FISCAL: No fiscal impact**

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**Action:** Be Adopted  
**Vote:** 5 - 0 - 0  
**Yeas:** George, Schrader, Starr, Verger, Metsger  
**Nays:** -  
**Exc.:** -  
**Prepared By:** Jim Stembridge, Administrator  
**Meeting Dates:** 4/1

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Names airstrip at the Aurora State Airport for Wes Lematta.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- History of Wes Lematta's involvement with Columbia Helicopters
- Role of helicopters in Oregon industrial history
- Pioneering efforts of Columbia Helicopter's Direct Visual Operations Control (DVOC)
- Creation of heavy-lift helicopter services and firefighting innovations
- Philanthropic works of Nancy and Wes Lematta

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** Wes Lematta founded Columbia Helicopters, Inc. in April 1957. Columbia pioneered the technique of Direct Visual Operational Control (DVOC), now the accepted method of safe, precision cargo placement worldwide. Columbia has become the world leader in helicopter yarding of timber, known as "helilogging."

Today, Columbia Helicopters, headquartered at Aurora State Airport, has a fleet of 30 aircraft and approximately 800 employees.

4/2/2009 10:11:00 AM

*This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.*

Committee Services Form - 2009 Regular Session