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March 26, 2013

The Honorable Lee Beyer, Chair
Committee on Business and Transportation
Oregon State Senate
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Beyer:

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) is a not-for-profit membership organization that represents the general aviation interests of nearly 400,000 members nationwide, including almost 6,300 in Oregon. Since 1939, AOPA has been committed to ensuring the safety, future viability, and development of general aviation airports and their facilities as a part of our national transportation system. We write today on behalf of our members in support of SB260, or any other legislative vehicle that would allocate funding for airport improvement projects through the Oregon Multi-Modal Transportation Fund.

Airports and aviation play an important role in local, state and national economies, connecting communities of all sizes via the national airspace system. The Oregon Department of Aviation's 2007 Aviation Plan notes that airports in the state (exclusive of Portland International) create over \$19 billion of economic impact for the state and its residents. Clearly, that impact would be far less significant without airport infrastructure investments made possible by programs like the Multi-Modal Transportation Fund. The latest round of funds made available through this program funded over \$7.25 million of critical infrastructure improvements at 15 airports statewide, resulting in improved safety, access and facilities for the state's aviation system.

We appreciate the Committee's recognition of the economic importance of airports and aviation to local communities and the state. Oregon's investment in its airports through the Multi-Modal Transportation Fund results in superior facilities that retain and attract business and create family-sustaining, highly skilled jobs throughout the region.

Again, we encourage your support of SB260. If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 695-2094.

Sincerely,

David R. Ulane, A.A.E.
Northwest Mountain Regional Manager