

Date: April 10, 2013

To: Transportation and Economic Development Committee

RE: HB 2016

Honorable Members

Thank you for taking my comments on HB 2016.

As President of the Oregon Pilots Association and the Liaison for the Recreational Aviation Foundation in Oregon it gives me great pleasure seeing our Legislature considering this amendment to the Recreational Use Statutes.

For a long time many landowners, both public and private, with viable landing strips have wanted to open their areas to aircraft other than their own, but were held back by the liability concerns of such actions. With HB 2016 those concerns can be alleviated.

The recreational opportunities that opening these airstrips should provide may also be a stimulus for economic development in these often more remote areas. Improved economics is something we can all use.

Landowners worried about maintenance of their airstrips can often call upon the pilot community for assistance in keeping their airstrips safe. The Oregon Pilots Association has both a Backcountry Committee and a Maintenance Wing devoted to volunteer airport maintenance and stand eager to help landowners with their airstrip maintenance issues.

Pilots are good stewards of the land, creating only a very small footprint where they go. Plus they offer our less capable, disabled citizens access to areas they might never be able to visit.

HB 2016 is a win-win for everyone. Please forward it to the full Legislature for an approval vote.

Thank you for your work on behalf of our wonderful State.

Dennis Smith  
President, Oregon Pilots Association  
RAF Liaison, Oregon