



Recreational Aviation Foundation
Preserving, Maintaining, and Creating Recreational Airstrips; Nationwide
1711 West Collage St. Bozeman, MT 59715
www.theraf.org

Team RAF

April 11, 2013

The Honorable Representative Tobias Read, Chairman House
Transportation and Economic Development Committee

Dear Representative Read:

The Recreational Aviation Foundation (RAF) is a 5000 member strong, nationwide organization with active members in the State of Oregon. The RAF has been working with the Airplane Owner's and Pilot's Association (AOPA), Oregon Pilot's Association, other Oregon aviation enthusiasts and landowners, to insure that recreational aviation activities are included in the Oregon Recreational Use Statute (RUS).

House Bill 2016 would amend the existing RUS to remove the cloud of uncertainty that hangs over Oregon landowners who allow recreational aviation activity on airfields located on their land. This liability protection clarification would be the same as protections currently provided to Oregon landowners who allow other defined types of recreational activities on their property.

HB 2016 is similar to amendments recently made in 19 other states, including AK, AR, AZ, ID, KS, ME, MA, MN, MT, NH, NM, PA, SD, TN, UT, VT, VA, WA, and WY. Five other states, including NY, CA, OK, IA, and FL, are working on the same clarification to their statutes. The goal for General Aviation is to have the RUS of all 50 states reflect similarities what is being considered by the Oregon legislature.

Recreation Use Statutes were introduced in nearly every state decades ago for the expressed purpose to promote recreational commerce. HB 2016 clarifies the existing Oregon Statute to add recreational aviation activities to that purpose. The Bill is not so much an aviation issue; but moreover, a landowner's issue.

HB 2016 is winning legislation for Oregon because:

- It places airfield owners who allow recreational aviation activities on their land, on the same liability footing as landowners who allow other defined recreational activities on their land.
- It promotes an increased volume of recreational opportunities within the state.
- It bolsters state revenues and business through increased aviation activities such as fuel sales, use of airplane maintenance centers, and overall increases in the viability of General Aviation businesses. Those increases come from both within and from outside the State in the form of General Aviation tourism.

Please accept this letter as testimony in support of HB 2016. Your support of the bill would be an aggressive vote for the future of General Aviation growth in Oregon.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me anytime.

Respectfully submitted,

John McKenna

President, Recreational Aviation Foundation

www.theraf.org

jmckenna@theraf.org

406-581-8234