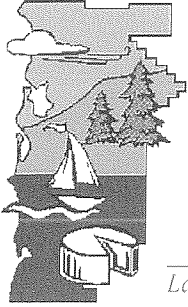


Tillamook County



Land of Cheese, Trees and Ocean Breeze

Board of Commissioners
Mark Labhart, Bill Baertlein, Tim Josi
201 Laurel Avenue
Tillamook, Oregon 97141
Phone 503-842-3403
Fax 503-842-1384
TTY Oregon Relay Service

February 26, 2013

Chair Tobias Read
Members of the House Transportation
and Economic Development Committee

RE: Support for House Bill 2766

Chair Read and Members of the Committee:

The Tillamook County Board of Commissioners wishes to go on the record in support of HB 2766 and ask you and your Committee to also support this Bill with an affirmative vote.

We support the 2 cent per gallon tax on both aviation gasoline and jet fuel. This tax will entirely fund the Department of Aviation, and will be used for maintenance of state airports as well as financial grants to the municipal owners of public use airports who are finding it increasingly difficult to meet their financial obligations to the mandatory FAA infrastructure development and maintenance programs. In many cases at the local jurisdiction, money for required airport maintenance and improvements is coming from their general funds. Even finding the 10% match is hard and competes with payment of city or county bills and road maintenance.

Economic Benefit to Oregon Citizens:

- Local jobs from maintenance and construction work at airports.
- Improved infrastructure to attract companies such as Google and Facebook who rely on biz jets as well as the expanding UAV industry.
- End the pending closure of more than seven state airports including the Pacific City Airport in Tillamook County and an unknown number of municipally-owned airports that are currently used by emergency service, UPS, FEDEX, firefighting, and agricultural operators and offer emergency access in the event of natural disasters.

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- Maintain a healthy level of flight training for new pilots to fill the pending loss of retiring airline professionals. Boeing has forecast a need for 466,650 more commercial pilots by 2029 — an average of 23,300 new pilots a year. Flight schools bring in foreign students who live, eat, and shop in the community.

Impact on Commercial Airlines:

Negligible. The average passenger ticket at PDX will increase less than 23 cents. The Daily Journal of Commerce reported in January that the number of flights decreased by 1.4% at PDX in 2012 and served 14.6 million passengers, with the Port reporting an expected increase in passenger numbers in 2013. So the cost per ticket is likely to be less, not more. Washington, with a jet fuel tax of 11 cents and California, with a 7.25% sales tax on jet fuel added to the 2 cent per gallon direct tax, have seen no loss of commercial traffic.

Even with a 2 cent increase, Oregon will still have the lowest jet fuel tax in the western US, so no loss of fuel sales will result.

Please support this Bill!

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR
TILLAMOOK COUNTY, OREGON



Mark Labhart, Chairperson



Bill Baertlein, Vice Chairperson



Tim Josi, Commissioner

cc: Senator Betsy Johnson
Senator Arnie Roblan
Rep. Debbie Boone
Rep. David Gomberg

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