

## **HB 2766**

### **House Transportation and Economic Development Committee**

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The Association of Oregon Counties supports HB 2766 since it will provide much needed funding for state and municipal airports. HB 2766 adds a two cent per gallon tax on both aviation gasoline and jet fuel. This revenue will fund the Oregon Department of Aviation and be used for maintenance of state airports as well as for financial grants to municipal public use airports.

Oregon's system of more than 100 public use airports serves important functions throughout Oregon including:

- Commercial passenger service
- Cargo transport
- Business travel and support for economic development
- Access to urban and rural communities
- Medevac and emergency flights
- Fire fighting
- Agricultural operations
- Recreation
- Military operations

Counties that own airports have seen their share of maintenance costs increase significantly, straining already thinly stretched budgets where maintenance is mandated by the FAA. The increase stems from a change in the FAA grant match requirement from 5 percent to 10 percent.

The revenues generated from HB 2766 will support the Department of Aviation and increase funding to municipally owned public airports thereby avoiding airport closures, enhancing commercial activity, supporting economic development efforts, and ensuring access for fire fighting and other emergency services.