

Senate Judiciary Committee Testimony on SB 71-6

March 20, 2013

Sen. Floyd Prozanski, Chair
Sen. Betsy Close, Vice Chair
Sen. Jackie Dingfelder
Sen. Jeff Kruse
Sen. Arnie Roblan

Chairman Prozanski & Members of the Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. My name is Bill Fisher Jr and I have lived at 2769 Daisy Ln SE in Turner Oregon for the past 8 ½ years. I became a member of the Salem Radio Control Pilots Association (SRCPA) a little over a year ago. I am currently the editor of S.P.A.N. (the SRCPA newsletter) and a “rookie” flyer.

I was born into a flying family. My Grandfather and Grandmother were both licensed pilots and there are currently 6 living family members who are either former or current pilots or pilot-in-training. I remember as a very young kid flying with different members of my family and I couldn't wait to get my license. While growing up, I also enjoyed building plastic model airplanes. At age 21, before I was able to get my pilots license, I was diagnosed with Juvenile Diabetes. Because of this, I could not obtain medical clearance and was “grounded”. Since then, I have been a “frequent flyer” with family and friends who are licensed pilots as often as I can.

During the past 40 years or so, I have attended many airplane events, museums and displays and had the opportunity to meet several military veterans who have served our country by flying these aircraft. I have become very interested in military aircraft, especially the pre-jet engine era. Each time I have seen these aircraft, thoughts have come to my mind of those who sacrificed so much, some of whom gave all, for the rights and freedoms we have as Americans. These experiences have created in me the desire to build large scale military models and fly them in memory of and as a tribute to the veterans of our military.

I have really enjoyed my time as a member of the SRCPA. I have become acquainted with many people who have been very supportive and helpful getting me started in this great hobby and on my way to reaching my goal. I have developed many friends through our association meetings and flying events. All of our meetings and events have been held and organized with the highest priorities being given to safety and responsible flying. Being involved with the SRCPA has been the next best thing to being able to fly “the real thing”!

The intent of my testimony is to provide information to this committee in support of amending SB 71-6 to specifically exclude model aircraft. I do not believe that this bill was intended to intentionally harm the model aircraft industry but it clearly leaves open the possibility that this could happen, even with the revisions made since its introduction. There are thousands and thousands of individuals like myself who are unable to pursue their dreams in aviation due to medical conditions. By adopting the amendment that is being proposed

today, this committee will ensure that those of us who have medical conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, etc. are able to live out our aviation dreams.

I sincerely appreciate your consideration in this matter and would be happy to provide more information or answers to any questions you might have.

Sincerely

Bill Fisher Jr

S.P.A.N. Editor