



# Oregon Aviation Industries



February 16, 2015

Regarding: **SB 534** Oregon 2015 Regular Session

Airports that are outside of an urban growth boundary often do not have a source of adequate water and sewer services. This is a health issue and a safety issue.

Several airports in the state have nearby sources of water and sewer utilities, but, under present Oregon law, unless the airport is annexed into the nearby city or municipality, these utilities cannot be offered to airport businesses and customers. Annexation is often not practical.

Airports are transportation, economic development, safety and emergency service assets for a community. By restricting their options to contract for water and sewer services, airports are crippled in providing these essential benefits for the communities in which they are located. Economic development growth resulting in new jobs is severely inhibited due to lack of adequate utility services at several Oregon airport locations.

Electricity, cable, internet and phone utilities can be provided to an airport outside of an UGB area. Water and sewer utilities need to be just as accessible.

A case in point. During the ten years that I lived in the City of Aurora, a city sewer system was installed. At that time, the Aurora Airport was very interested in obtaining both Aurora City water and sewer services. The city was interested in providing these services and in expanding its fee base to help support its utility infrastructure. There was a need and a willing solution.

However, the Aurora airport is outside of the Urban Growth Boundary and the City and the Airport were prevented from entering into an agreement that would have been mutually beneficial. SB 534 is our chance to rectify this situation. It is based on the spirit of free enterprise.

Please support SB 534 – it is directly tied to health, safety, emergency services, economic development and jobs at the Aurora airport and at a number of other Oregon airports.

Sincerely,

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