

February 18, 2015

Mr. Brian Clem, Chairman and Members of the House Rural Communities, Land Use and Water

In each state there is law to protect landowners from liability lawsuits when others are using their land for recreation. While these Recreational Use Statutes will not prevent lawsuits, the outcome is more likely to favor the landowner. These statutes were passed to help keep lands open for recreational purposes. In many states, aviation is now listed in the statute's definition of recreation. The recreational Use Statute is a landowner protection law to purposefully keep private lands open for recreational use.

O.R.S. 105.682, at the present time, does not list "aviation activities" within the definition section of Oregon Recreational Use Statutes. HB-2038 would clarify this issue for the landowner when it comes to recreational uses.

Being the owner of a private airstrip, located one mile west of Monmouth, OR, depicted on the Seattle Sectional Aeronautical Chart as "MARR", I have been reluctant to let anyone other than myself use the strip because of liability issues. There are some "horror stories" out there about accidents and suits of which I do not want to be involved. When HB-2038 is passed, I will be more likely to let others land at my airstrip. With talk of more State of Oregon strips being closed, it makes sense to make private airstrips more easily accessible to the public for recreational purposes.

I have been involved in aviation since 1963 when I first learned to fly and ended up making a 34 year career in the piloting of Airline Aircraft. I still fly light aircraft and am very interested in general aviation, especially in keeping airports open to the public for noncommercial and recreational purposes. I can only think of positive things concerning HB-2038 and its impact on aviation.

I urge your complete support for HB 2038!

Thank you for your indulgence in this matter,

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