

Committee Chair Phil Branhardt:

Please accept this brief note as my voice in support of House Bill 2075, which would increase taxes on aviation gas and jet fuel. I have been an active pilot in Oregon since 1956 and have used and enjoyed the general aviation infrastructure we have here. I realize that this infrastructure is due in large part to the funds raised through taxes on fuel used in aircraft, and am willing to pay the increase tax level to help assure that the aviation facilities and service remain available and be improved. Oregon has a rich aviation history, and I don't want to see this degraded through a financial inability to maintain and grow. We at least need to approximate our level of aviation support to that in our neighboring states, a level of support in which we now lag behind.

In addition to being an active pilot, I am the founder and C.E.O. of Van's Aircraft Inc, located on the Aurora State Airport. Van's has grown to become the world's largest manufacturer of kit aircraft, several hundred of which have been built and operate in the state of Oregon. These are operated primarily for personal and pleasure flying and operate from airports, large and small, all across our state. Oregon is a great place to fly, and can become even greater through the funds which can become available through passage of HB2075. Please help facilitate its passage.

Thank You.

Richard VanGrunsven
Private Pilot
C.E.O. Van's Aircraft Inc.