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Testimony about HB 2075

Name: David Martin

Address: 779 Airport Way, Independence, OR 97351

Chairman and members of the <sup>Revenue</sup> Finance Committee

I support the bill. Twelve years ago, my wife and I moved from San Diego to participate in the aviation community at Independence. More than five years ago we finished the small airplane we built from a kit produced by the most successful kit company in the world. It is located at Aurora State Airport. As a licensed and active pilot for more than 50 years, and as one of the several past presidents of the Oregon Pilots' Association here in the room today, I realized some years ago that the Oregon Department of Aviation is significantly underfunded for its role as the manager and maintainer of the 28 state-owned airports. Many of these airports are of major financial benefit to their communities. Aurora State Airport is a good example. All of the state-owned and other small Oregon airports combine as a network of emergency landing sites and bases of operation for likely disasters such as a Cascadia subduction zone earthquake.

The lack of ODA funding appears to result in delayed maintenance including infrequent grass cutting and postponed repairs that have safety implications. At Independence State, the glideslope approach light system for the preferred runway was out of service for more than a year. About 10 days ago, it was returned to service. This system adds an element of safety, especially for night landings.

As an occasional airline customer, I will gladly pay the extra 50 cents to one dollar per ticket it will cost the airline to implement HB 2075. Please move the bill forward.

Thank you for your time.