



Oregon Aviation Industries



March 23, 2015

Dear Representative Barnhart,
Chairman, Oregon House Revenue Committee

This letter is in support of HB2075; increasing Oregon aviation infrastructure funding.

Oregon Aviation Industries (ORAVI) is a cluster group of 80 aviation member companies located statewide, focused on economic development of the commercial aviation industry in Oregon. I represent ORAVI as Executive Director and our members include heavy-lift helicopter companies, aircraft manufacturers, drone companies, aircraft services and training operators, colleges and airports. We are one of the industry clusters initiated by the Oregon Business Council.

The aviation transportation system and the Department of Aviation in Oregon are underfunded. We see a need for development in five areas: 1- grant match funds to leverage federal dollars for rural airports, 2-creation of affordable air transportation services among some of our 97 public use airports, 3-maintenance of airports for safety and operations, 4-emergency airport preparedness for natural disaster relief, and 5-economic development assistance for the aviation industry in Oregon.

In addition to the existing aviation operations, the emerging UAS opportunity, leveraged by our three FAA designated Unmanned Aircraft Systems test ranges, puts Oregon into a leadership position upon which we can capitalize. ORAVI works closely with Soar Oregon, the Association of Unmanned Vehicle Systems International (AUVSI), Business Oregon and colleges to support and advance UAS economic development statewide. We believe that UAS is a huge opportunity, especially for rural Oregon.

To address these issues, ORAVI submitted HB2075 to your Oregon House Revenue Committee. This bill would raise aviation fuel tax by 4 cents per gallon and provide more than ten million dollars per year to address the critical needs that we see in aviation transportation, economic development and rural job creation. Oregon's jet fuel tax is currently 1 cent per gallon and has been at that level for 50 years. With the increase, our aviation fuel taxes would still be lower than other states in the region.

Oregon Aviation Industries (ORAVI) supports HB2075 and encourages its passage in the 2015 Legislative Session. We look forward to your committee hearings on HB2075 and are ready and willing to provide additional information as needed. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Gale 'Jake' Jacobs
Executive Director
Oregon Aviation Industries