



421 Aviation Way
Frederick, Maryland 21701

T. 301-695-2000
F. 301-695-2375

www.aopa.org

May 19, 2015

The Honorable Floyd Prozanski, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Oregon State Senate
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Senator Prozanski:

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) is the world's largest aviation membership association that represents the general aviation interests of our members nationwide, including over 4,900 in Oregon. On behalf of AOPA and our members, we would like to express the general aviation community's strong support for House Bill 2038, which would limit the liability of landowners who make their private airfields available for public use.

Many states have a recreational use statute that provides a degree of liability protection for landowners who allow the public to recreate on their lands as long as no fee is charged. However in Oregon, private use airfield owners are not certain that the recreational use statute pertains to them, and as a result, many deny aviation access to their private airfields. House Bill 2038 clarifies the liability protections afforded to private airfield owners, and would result in many such owners being more likely to allow the aviation community access to their property. Such broader access can stimulate aviation and related economic activity in the state, while facilitating a wide range of activities such as camping, hiking, angling and other outdoor recreation.

It is important to note that while this legislation could facilitate broader use of private use airfields, it in no way eliminates or reassigns to a landowner the responsibility that pilots "shall, before beginning a flight, become familiar with all available information concerning that flight", as required by Federal Aviation Regulation 14CFR Part 91.103.

On behalf of AOPA and our members, we appreciate your support of House Bill 2038, and urge you to pass it out of committee. If you have any questions, or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (301) 695-2094.

Sincerely,

David R. Ulane, A.A.E.
Northwest Mountain Regional Manager

CC: Senate Judiciary Committee Members