



May 19, 2015

Oregon State Senate  
Judiciary Committee  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: House Bill 2038 – Aviation Activities

Chair Prozanski and Committee Members:

The Columbia Aviation Association (CAA) submits this letter in support of House Bill 2038A, a bill which encourages and promotes aviation activities on private lands, including private airstrips.

CAA is an organization dedicated to aviation. Founded in 1949 and located at the Aurora State Airport, our members are required to maintain private pilot certificates and are experienced aviators. Although the aviation community is small, we share a common love of flying, and are a tight knit group.

Under both state and federal law, airstrips may be designated as either public or private. Private airstrips are labeled as such on FAA charts used by all pilots, and are designated on those charts as either "private" or "restricted". An airstrip with either a "P" or "R" designation on the FAA charts is not available for use by the general aviation public without prior permission of the owner of the airstrip. These private airstrips are located throughout Oregon, and are frequently found in rural areas.

One of the primary reasons why owners of private airstrips do not allow public access to the airstrips is a fear of liability should an aviation accident occur on the property. Whether that fear is real or imaginary, the threat of potential liability is sufficient to cause the owner of the airstrip to restrict access to the general aviation community. HB 2038A is an attempt to ease those fears.

By providing airstrip owners with protection from liability for aviation activities occurring on the property, HB 2038A encourages owners of private airstrips to open their strips for use by the public aviation community. This will have a positive impact for all pilots, as we will now gain access to strips that have previously been off limits to us. It will also allow us to explore parts of the state that do not receive much aviation activity.

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Columbia Aviation Association ~ 14323 Stenbock Rd., NE ~ Aurora, OR 97002