

June 15, 2015

Dear Representative David Gomberg
Joint Ways and Means Committee
Co-Chair, Transportation and Economic Development Sub Committee

This letter is in Support of HB 2075; increasing Oregon Aviation infrastructure funding.

The aviation transportation system and the Department of Aviation in Oregon are underfunded.

There is a real need for development in the following areas:

1. Grant matching funds to leverage federal dollars for rural airports
2. Creation of affordable air transportation services among some of the 95 public use rural airports.
3. Maintenance of airports for safety and operations.
4. Emergency airport preparedness for natural disaster relief.
5. Economic Development assistance for the aviation industry in Oregon.

With the proposed 2 cents per gallon increase in the jet fuel tax, Oregon will still be lower than the other states in the region.

HB 2075 has a very strong rural Oregon focus and will provide essential transportation and economic development benefits statewide.

Years ago when the Port of Portland made the decision to create a reliever airport system to free up the airspace at Portland International for the increased airline traffic, they funded development of the reliever airport concept, but that funding has gone away and the rural airports are left with very little financial support.

Please approve HB 2075 !!

Sincerely,

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