

Dear Committee Members:

I'm writing in support of both SB 128 and SB 189.

Having served on the 2005 Hillsboro Airport Project Advisory committee I have the benefit of witnessing first hand much of the biased analysis that went into airport development and growth.

SB 128 is needed so that management of aviation activities at the Hillsboro Airport (HIO) can be better regulated so as to mitigate the extreme negative impact on local residents. To illustrate, helicopter training is a significant part of the operations at HIO. While the Port of Portland as the Owner/Operator is clearly designated by the FAA as responsible for the management of noise from aviation activities, they refuse to take any meaningful steps towards mitigation of the helicopter noise. When asked, the Port's response is always that Federal Preemption prevents any restrictions on flight activity. In point of fact, careful reading of the relevant FAA regulations reveals statements to the effect of "...unfair discrimination..." rather than outright prohibitions. As a result of this hands-off policy we, as close neighbors of the airport, are subject to very high numbers of low level helicopter overflights with the accompanying and unrecognized high levels of low frequency noise and intense blade slap.

The noise load we endure from HIO aviation is much higher and much more involved than these few words can describe but suffice it to say that the Port of Portland does not care whereas local control could provide a needed degree of balance between livability and aviation needs.

SB 189 is needed to provide an unbiased, objective and comparative evaluation of the investment in the Hillsboro Airport. Construction and funding of the recently added third runway could likely have been avoided had consideration been given to relocating the flight training to some other suitable site in Oregon and such a relocation would have benefited that local economy. In addition, there needs to be critical comparative analysis of say, the airport vs a high quality technical university in furthering the local hi-tech economy.

I urge you to support these two bills.

Respectfully,

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