

February 21, 2017

To: Oregon Senate Committee on Business and Transportation

Re: SB 128 Relating to Airports Administered by the Port of Portland

Dear Chair Beyer and Members of the Committee,

This letter was drafted by Fred Hostetler of Hillsboro and Brian Lockhart of Portland, both former Chairmen of the Hillsboro Airport Issues Roundtable (HAIR) (renamed Hillsboro Airport Roundtable Exchange or HARE, in 2014). The authors have a combined history spanning over 60 years with the Hillsboro Airport.

We are writing to express our opposition to Senate Bill 128 which would establish two additional governing bodies ("Airport Authorities"), one each for the Hillsboro Airport and for the Troutdale Airport, to assume the power and authority currently vested in the Commissioners of the Port of Portland for the control and operation of those airports.

For the past two decades, the Port of Portland Commissioners and staff have provided highly competent and efficient management of the three Port owned airports in this region. SB 128 would create needless additional bureaucracy, complicate airport funding, divert scarce airport funds to pay for elections, and impede coordination with other airports on regional air transportation planning.

Proponents of SB 128 believe that it will give the public a voice to share their concerns over airport management. That is exactly what the Port's citizen advisory committee for Hillsboro, the Hillsboro Airport Issues Roundtable (HAIR) (now HARE), has been providing since its inception in 2006. Citizen participation as committee members and through public commentary taken at meetings, has been a constant for the past ten years. The formation of HAIR was the result of a recommendation from the 2005 Hillsboro Airport Master Plan & Compatibility Study Update. The Project Advisory Committee for this study included several Citizen-at-large members, and took into account comments and concerns from community members attending the meetings. Additionally, the Port has performed extensive public outreach efforts in conjunction with major projects including the Parallel Runway and the development of the Airport Use Zone. The Port has proven over many years that it willingly seeks input for the sole purpose of staying in touch with the community and local leaders regarding airport concerns.

The Port of Portland's two general aviation airports are valuable and popular civic assets, and SB 128 will not provide any tangible additional benefits for either the community or the airports. We respectfully request that you reject this Bill as unnecessary and potentially harmful to the regional transportation system.

Respectfully submitted by:



Fred Hostetler

Chairman



Brian Lockhart

Chairman