

January 15, 2018

Chair Jim Bernard  
Commissioner Schrader  
Commissioner Fischer  
Commissioner Humbertson  
Commissioner Savas  
2051 Kaen Road  
Oregon City, OR. 97045

RE: Response to Clackamas County Request for the City of Canby's Position Regarding Aurora State Airport Runway Extension

Dear Chair Bernard and County Commissioners:

I am writing to you to express the City of Canby's support on the Aurora State Airport Runway Extension, as inquired by County Staff on Wednesday morning January 10<sup>th</sup> 2018.

Let me start by saying thank you for reaching out to the City of Canby and seeking our position on this important Marion County issue and how it may positively or negatively impact Canby and the western entrance to Clackamas County.

The following factors were taken into consideration during discussion with staff, Canby City Council, several businesses located at the airport and in Canby, Mayor Graupp of Aurora, and a site visit of the airport:

- The extension helps our existing companies by providing nearby alternative access to transportation. We have several businesses in both of our Industrial Parks that use the airport to transport supplies and personnel in and out of the region,
- Provides more customers for our downtown businesses and aviation suppliers,
- It will improve business efficiency for several businesses located there. As it is now, several businesses, for longer flights, must fly to Hillsboro to "top off" their fuel tanks because a full fuel tank and an inadequate runway prevent their planes from being able to take off. Adding costs in fuel, airport fees, increased emissions, and decrease productivity,
- Both the City of Wilsonville and the City of Canby tout having the Aurora State Airport near our municipalities as an Economic Asset on our city websites:
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> busiest airport in the State of Oregon
  - Paid \$780,000 in taxes to local taxing districts in 2014
  - Nearly 1,500 well-paying jobs in the area are associated with the Aurora Airport

After discussion regarding these factors with our City Administrator, Economic Development Director, and with City Councilors we think that the runway extension *would in fact benefit* Canby, Western Clackamas County, Wilsonville, Aurora, and Marion County.

We also think that the matter of the extension should be addressed sooner rather than later as growth in the Metro Region is driving more business and residential growth toward Wilsonville, Canby, Aurora, Hubbard, Donald, and Woodburn. If the land for the runway can be decided on now and the extension completed, the airport's growth will not be stunted by being penned in and the surrounding communities will be able to plan accordingly for their own growth.

Finally, I believe this can be an opportunity for Clackamas County and Marion County to work together to address important transportation concerns in and around the Aurora State Airport. As the cities of Canby, Aurora, and other North Willamette Valley communities grow, this area - specifically Boones Bridge, will increase with congestion on a daily basis. With proper master planning and teamwork between the two counties and the state, we may create worthwhile solutions.

I ask that the Board of County Commissioners support the extension of the runway for Aurora State Airport as the City of Canby does.

Again, thank you for reaching out, and seeking our input on this important local and state issue.

Sincerely,

Brian Hodson  
Mayor  
City of Canby Oregon