

Dear Chair McLain and members of the House Transportation Policy Committee,

As Chief Pilot of American Medical Concepts, a company that has been doing business in the Wilsonville area for almost 20 years, I am writing today in support of the bill HB 4092. We operate a corporate jet which allows us to increase and expand business, the Aurora Airport has facilitated our ability to better serve our community. Unfortunately, due to the current length of the runway, we are often forced to use PDX as our departure airport when conducting long range flights. In addition to our business, lengthening the runway at the Aurora Airport to 6000 ft. (which has been in the master plan since 1976) would greatly increase the ability for local businesses with private aircraft to enhance their ability to conduct business more efficiently while growing not only their business, but the local community as well. This airport not only services the business that fly into them, but also provide jobs at the airport to the local people in the small community that surrounds the airport. The expansion, in my opinion, would bring in more jobs to the area as more business would have the ability to utilize the airport.

American Medical Concepts often conducts flights around the US and Mexico, unfortunately, due to the current length of the runway at Aurora, we are weight restricted from using this airport for our longer flights and must use PDX. This causes delays as PDX has much higher traffic, operational delays, and additional costs. Not only is lengthening the runway a benefit, it would increase safety for corporate jet traffic.

I believe we should continue to support smaller local airports as much as possible as to bring in more revenue to outlying communities. Aurora Airport has a positive history with giving back to their local community not only through jobs, but through education and volunteerism. An increase of runway will increase business and allow the opportunity for more community involvement.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Jonathan Thomas
Chief Pilot
American Medical Concepts