

February 1, 2018

As chair of the Aurora Butteville Barlow Citizens Planning Organization, I am writing in opposition to House Bill 4092. The citizens in our CPO live in Clackamas County near Aurora Airport. This bill ensures that we are barred from any participation in the decisions being made at Aurora Airport.

HB 4092 is flawed in the several ways:

- The legislation allows ODA to make changes to Aurora Airport with no citizen input from citizens or other government agencies.
- The bill is not needed. There are avenues available for Oregon Department of Aviation (ODA) to achieve its objectives without legislation. Saving a bit of time or money is not justification for making an end-run around the land use system or citizen input.
- The bill is too loosely worded. It does limit the actions to be taken. It allows ODA to take any land use action it wants by making reference to the extension.
- The government should not exempt itself from the laws it imposes on its citizens. Whenever the government functions away from the public eye and doesn't follow the laws it imposes on its citizens, it weakens the respect for both the government and the law.
- The bill would damage Oregon's land use system. Oregon has exemplary land use laws. Using legislation to make exceptions or super-siting, weakens the system. This is especially true when the exception is not needed.

We are concerned because the Oregon Department of Aviation has a history of making decisions away from the public eye and finding ways to bypass citizen input. When developing the latest airport plan, a 16 member citizen's group, made up of government officials, airport pilots and operators and local residents, met for over 1 ½ years. At the end of the period, the group voted 15 to 1 to recommend not extending the runway. However, when the master plan was finalized, it included a 1,000 foot extension. Almost 2 years of citizen work was shelved because it wasn't the answer the Oregon Department of Aviation wanted.

House Bill 4092 is bad policy that rewards a government agency that prefers to operate in isolation. It is a slap in the face to those believe in transparency and would serve to damage Oregon's land use laws.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Ken Ivey, Chair  
Aurora Butteville Barlow Community Planning Organization