

Good Morning Representative Lewis,

My name is George Gill, and I am a corporate pilot based out of the Aurora State Airport. I've been flying out of Aurora for the past four years, and am happy to call it my home airport.

I've been hearing for the past several years that there have been plans to extend the runway at some point in the near future. I have also heard a small, but loud, group of people trying to oppose this runway project. This group of individuals may be well intentioned, however I am assuming none of them are pilots, and thus their concerns may be misplaced. Thus I wanted to take a moment to make sure you heard from a pilot, based at Aurora, who would greatly benefit from the economic, and most importantly, safety benefits of a longer runway. This in turn would translate into the airport being an even bigger asset to the surrounding community.

Aurora is the 3rd busiest airport in the state, yet has the shortest runway between Portland and Hillsboro. Because of this, Hillsboro and Portland get the lions share of corporate aircraft. By having a longer runway, we could attract bigger airplanes, which need more fuel, and require more maintenance, and would bring more money to Aurora. We could also base more and bigger airplanes at Aurora, meaning we would need to build more hangars and be able to support more personnel at the airport who work on and around airplanes. As I'm sure you can guess, this means more contractors, builders, painters, mechanics, pilots, janitors, etc, all based out of Aurora, and in turn will all be going to the surrounding restaurants, gas stations, grocery stores, shops, etc.

I'm aware that bigger airplanes may not sound like a good thing to non pilots trying to keep an airport as small and quite as possible. However, bigger business jets are usually newer, more fuel efficient, and quieter than most small business jets.

On the topic of noise, by extending the runway to the south, this will allow airplanes to take off further away from the neighborhoods to the north. By taking off further from these neighborhoods, even by just a thousand feet, will allow airplane's to climb higher and turn sooner before even flying over those houses.

From a safety standpoint, and this really is the most important aspect of extending the runway, I cannot stress enough the benefits of having a longer runway. A longer runway gives us pilots greater distance to stop during landing, more distance and time to make a "go - no go" decision during takeoff, and will open the airport up to more approaches allowing airplanes to more safely find the runway in inclement weather.

As I said, I am so happy to call Aurora my home airport. Everyone there is friendly, professional, safety minded, and cares about the well being of the community around the airport and their fellow aviators. My hope is to continue flying out of Aurora for a very long time, and I'm positive a longer runway would allow that to happen as I advance my career.

My hope is that those who currently oppose a longer runway can listen to those who would benefit from this project, and can see the advantages of job growth, economic growth, and safety merits a longer runway would bring.

Thank you for your time. Have a very happy holiday season!

George Gill

912 220 8049

georgegillcfi@gmail.com