

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

I'm writing to ask for your support of HB 4092 relating to state airports.

I have been living in Wilsonville (Charbonneau) and working for Aurora Aviation at Aurora State Airport (KUAO) since August 2010. In that time I have watched the nature of air operations here transition from primarily recreational flyers to significant daily use of the airport by business and public-use aircraft. It is clear from my front-row seat that this airport is becoming an ever more vital and important part of the local transportation system that Oregon businesses depend upon. The opening of the control tower a couple of years ago greatly enhanced safety for all operators, but the current 5000' runway length restricts many operators from utilizing their aircraft most efficiently by requiring them to operate with reduced passenger or fuel loads. It also allows for narrower margins for safety in case of a problem.

Please consider the following points:

- A 6,000' runway has been in the KUAO master plan since 1976 and was reaffirmed again in the 2013 master plan.
- HB 4092 will not take farm land out of production.
- A runway extension to 6000' will greatly enhance safety of operations for all airport users.
- A longer runway, along with the control tower, will make KUAO a more functional and efficient hub for emergency services in the event of a natural disaster.
- This airport provides hundreds of jobs, vital public-safety services and significant revenues to both the state of Oregon and local communities.

Please support HB 4092.

Sincerely

Walter B. Smith
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