

Dear House Transportation Committee,

Thank you for your consideration of this very beneficial Bill. I own and operate a company that my family began after buying property on the Aurora Airport in 1968.

Over the decades we have been involved full-time and mostly seven days a week in General Aviation\* but what we've really specialized in is Jobs, Careers actually, by hiring well over 1000\*\* young local individuals over the years who have worked in an entry-level position such as receptionist or Aircraft-refueler and helped them move "up the ladder" to FAA-Certified Aircraft Mechanic or flight-instructor, then charter pilot before going on to work for the Airlines.

We are very involved in local community service by organizing "field days" and "career days" for local K-12 schools, hosting Veterans fly-ins, charities, volunteer police and fire-department training, and time spent with local chambers as well as Airport/Community communication groups. We are currently involved in a program to bring Aviation and Management vocational training to the local public schools.

The reason for this message is to communicate the urgent need for an improvement to the Aurora Airport by completing the runway lengthening that has been planned for 42 years. This lengthening;

- Is NOT extreme but would take us from the #31 in length in Oregon to #10 (we are #3 or #4 in utilization) please see attached.
- Will indisputably increase the safety of every single take-off and every landing.
- Will allow the Aircraft that are operating here now to carry more fuel and thus eliminate a landing elsewhere.
- Will significantly improve the local economy by allowing the top grade of business aircraft that are more quiet and only imperceptibly larger to visit and to base here to service local business.
- Will allow the Aircraft that are operating out of here now to carry more payload.
- Due to the above improvements; will further increase the already very high Airport land-values and local property taxes.
- Will protect the area off the end of the runway by restricting any building and assuring continued agricultural usage.

We have seen and heard opposition (mostly from a hand-full of very vocal individuals) to this improvement and are 100% certain this is strictly due to lack of knowledge or due to miscommunication.

One of the very understandable and most-commonly heard concerns is that Aurora could become an Airline airport which we are completely opposed to and is impossible for many reasons including the total lack of space as the Airport is close to fully developed, the strength of the runway at 45,000# with 200,000# minimum required for Airliners, the huge investments

made by the current tenants none of which would tolerate or be compatible with Airline operations, the location of highway 551, the single runway, and many more.

One of the arguments is that we could continue to get by at the current length but we do not believe in limiting safety or that we can be “safe-enough” or much less “too-safe”!

We have heard concerns about the cost of this improvement from people who do not realize that all Airport improvements are paid for 100% by Aviation fuel and flight taxes.

The surrounding communities have grown very significantly (especially Wilsonville) while the Aurora Airport has actually decreased operations from the peak in the 1970’s while changing from almost all single-engine piston Aircraft that were stored outside, and that routinely flew “the pattern” and “touch and goes” learning and practicing landings to today’s business Aircraft, all of which require a hangar for storage (many with offices) and always leave the area for full-day trips or longer. We see the only possibility as a slight steady increase in today’s type of operation with a significant increase in safety and a significant increase in value by the runway lengthening.

Honesty and integrity have always been very important parts of our business ethics. We have absolutely no knowledge or interest in any conspiracies or hidden agendas.

Please see the attached list of longer Airports in Oregon alone to keep this in perspective.

Thank you for your time reading and considering this and please contact me with ANY questions or you would like a tour of the Airport to help prove these facts.

\*Flight Training, Air-Charter specializing in time critical emergencies such as Medical flights, fire-fighting support, natural catastrophe’s as well as urgent business transportation, Aircraft Sales, Aircraft Maintenance and Aircraft refueling.

\*\* This number is our company only, there are currently approximately 1300 employed Airport-wide and many, many times that amount that have benefited greatly and moved on.

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