



PETER H. KOEHLER, JR
Arbitration & Mediation Services

February 8, 2018

To: House Transportation and Development Committee

Re: Opposition to HB 4092

Dear Committee members,

I write in strong opposition to HB 4092. The bill is an end-run around our normal land use processes, for the benefit of one airport (Aurora) and its out-of-state developer. It is exactly the kind of legislation that frays trust in our government. The effort should be shut down in its tracks.

I am a resident of North Marion County. I am also an arbitrator and mediator of commercial disputes, a retired Nike legal executive, the chair of the board of two significant Oregon non-profits (the Oregon Shakespeare Festival and the Classroom Law Project) and a trustee of one of Oregon's most prominent foundations (Miller Foundation). I say this only to underscore my involvement across various disciplines to ensure that we maintain and grow the unique Oregon way of life.

Our land use laws ensure public involvement and transparency. That kind of public involvement in land use decisions is critical to counter the natural advantage that financial power and personal favoritism inevitably play in our political decisions. There is no reason that the public – affected neighbors, nearby communities and other stakeholders – should be denied the normal venue to ask questions and debate the merits of the expansion of the Aurora airport.

Make no mistake about my message. There may be good reasons for the land use changes sought by the developers of the Aurora airport (although their avoidance of a public process indicates certainly demonstrates some concern on their part). My primary concern is that we should not undermine our land use laws by letting a developer circumvent them by creating a legislative exemption.

Regards,

Peter Koehler

Cc: Sen. Pres. Peter Courtney; House Speaker Tina Kotek; Rep. Susan McLain;
Rep Rich Vial; Rep. Mark Meek; Rep. Daniel Bonham; Rep. Ronald Noble;
Rep. Andrea Salinas; Rep. Carl Wilson; Rep. Brad Witt; Sen. Lee Beyer