

February 8, 2018

Clackamas County Board of Commissioners Policy Position HB 4092: Relating to State Airports

Clackamas County opposes HB 4092: The Board of County Commissioners opposes HB 4092, which would allow for the expansion of the Aurora State Airport by circumventing statewide land use laws.

Specifically, HB 4092 would exempt local governments from being subject to statewide planning goals for the purpose of expanding the airport. Bypassing Oregon's land use laws unfairly cuts the public out of the process and sidesteps state requirements to consider impacts on farmland, surface transportation, and urban services. This approach is not in the best interest of Clackamas County or Oregonians.

Moreover, consideration of this measure during the 35-day legislative session only further limits opportunity for public discourse. The proposal also fails to allow for a comprehensive assessment on the future of the Aurora Airport. The changes being sought through this legislation are significant, and appropriate time should be given to comprehensively study the economic benefits of the airport while allowing for a robust public process.

Clackamas County would strongly support an opportunity to participate in a process on the future of the airport that involves all stakeholders, convened by a neutral party. We believe that such an approach would help to ensure more informed decision-making that considers all potential ramifications stemming from expansion of the airport.

We urge a "no" vote on HB 4092.

Please contact Chris Lyons at clyons@clackamas.us for more information.