

Monday, February 5, 2018

John W. Dixon

22340 Yellow Gate Lane, Hanger M63, Aurora, Oregon, 97002

To: House Transportation Chair Representative Susan McLain, Vice Chair, and Member Representatives.

RE: Request of Support in Favor of HB 4092

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

I am writing to all the members of the Transportation Committee to ask for your support of HB 4092.

The Bill before you is vital to current, and future operations at the Aurora Airport.

As a Large Business Aircraft owner, it is imperative that the runway be extended for increased operational safety of aircraft. The 1000' expansion of the runway will increase and augment the operational capabilities of aircraft based at Aurora, and aircraft that fly into Aurora Airport to conduct business in the area. It will enhance an already safe airport by augmenting the capabilities the airport currently provides thus increasing safety to a higher level.

We operate our aircraft on a restricted basis due to the current length of the existing runway. It prohibits us from taking off with full fuel to reach destinations thousands of miles away from Aurora. We have to re-position to Portland International to refuel to be able to reach some of our destinations. Not only does this restrict us in our operations, but it also restricts a lot of other operators based at Aurora.

The addition of 1000' as requested in HB 4092 would enable us, and other operators on the airport to completely fuel our aircraft to meet our mission requirements. It also will increase business by injecting more income to the businesses that support our operation and others.

Due to the current 5000' runway length at Aurora, Fractional, Charter, and Business Aircraft Operators from other cities in Oregon, and throughout the United States that would fly into the airport to conduct business cannot. This is due to FAA Regulations that they must adhere to for their aircraft operations. This equates into hundreds of thousands of dollars, or more, lost annually to Portland, Hillsboro, or Salem Airports and their longer runways. These dollars could be going to local businesses on the airport and surrounding businesses in Aurora, Canby, Wilsonville and other communities in the area. The addition of the requested 1000' of runway would alleviate that issue.

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The Aurora Airport is one of the busiest airports in the state with over 94,000 operations annually. It is time that the airport expand to it's true potential for the enhanced safety, and the future growth of the area.

As a business we are partners with 28 other companies in the Portland Metro Area, the Pacific Northwest, and locations on the West Coast and other states further east. Each of these companies employ hundreds of people. In conducting our business, it requires us to fly our aircraft to be on site, face to face, with our clients.

We are looking at increasing our aircraft operations at Aurora. This will require the purchase of a larger aircraft to enable us to meet our business needs. With the current runway length at Aurora, we may have to consider moving to Portland, or Hillsboro Airports to be able to conduct our operations unless the runway is extended.

We currently own our hangars at Aurora and would like to stay in our current location as it is perfect for our requirements.

There are individuals, and groups that oppose the expansion of the runway and further potential growth at the Aurora Airport for any and all reasons.

The letters, and documents that support the expansion, and growth of the airport are in your possession for review. The expansion requirements have been met over many years of time invested and hard work by supporters for the expansion. The master plans have been approved twice, and all other State and legal requirements have been met.

We ask that you please support HB 4092 and help to pass this bill.

If you have any questions at anytime about our business or operation at Aurora, please feel free to contact us.

Thank-you for your support,

Tod Coombs
Aviation Department Manager / Chief Pilot
Authorized Representative
For and on behalf of John W. Dixon

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