

*MIKE JOHNSON - own & my son Aurora Farm..*

Thank you Madam Chair for the opportunity to voice an opinion shared by many people living and working around the Aurora Airport.

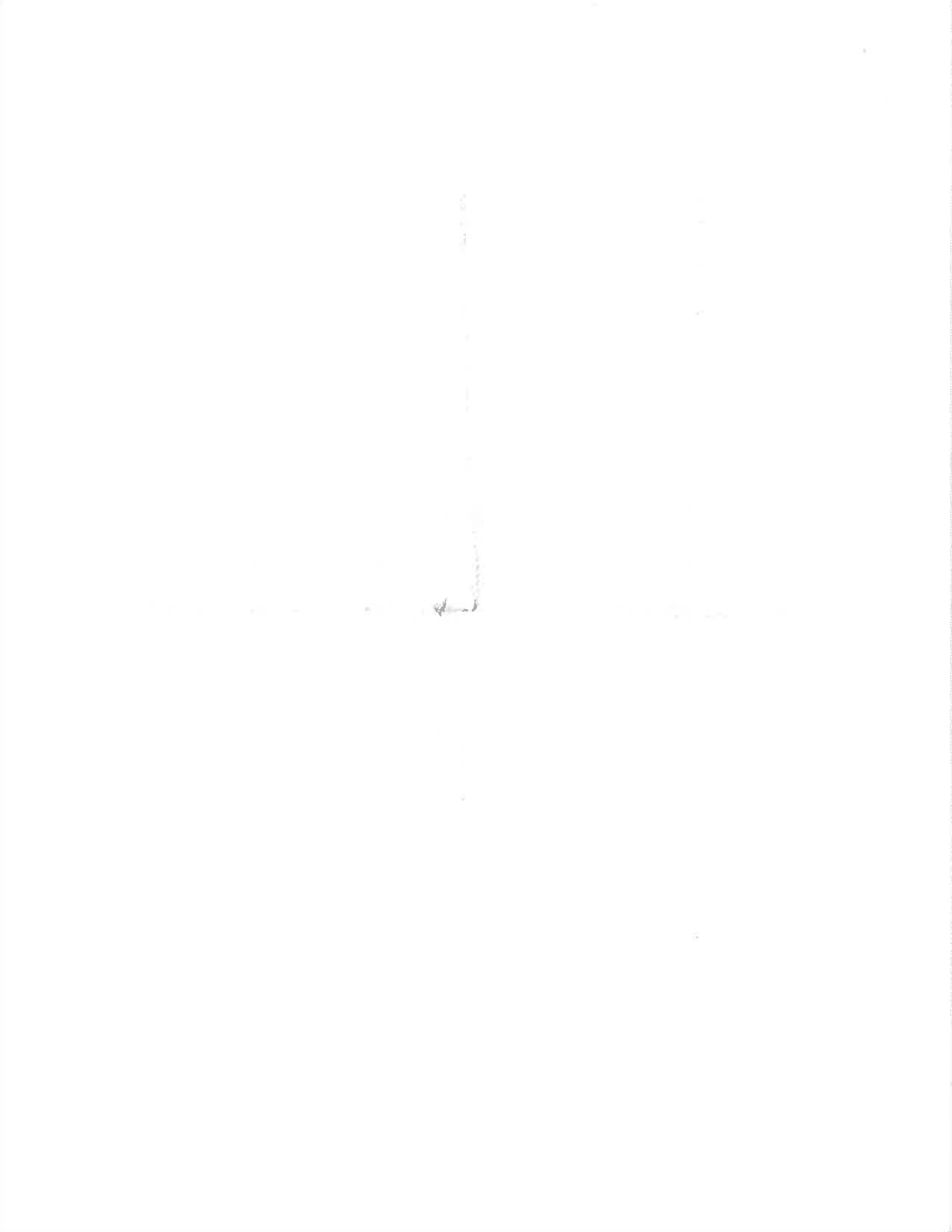
Since 1980, we have farmed fresh market vegetables on both sides of the Aurora Airport, now about 200 acres that are evenly split with 14-16 different varieties of vegetables, with 25-30 season long employees that work from early March through December. Payroll is currently over \$700,000 annually.

We use Keil Road, as do other nurseries, and it is understood that this road will essentially dead-end, if the proponents achieve their expansion goal. We use Keil Road daily, typically multiple times, moving both employee's and equipment to meet the daily demands of farming.



I estimate that the increase in travel costs could triple due to being forced to take alternate routes that will not only greatly increase our travel distance, but also the exposure of farm equipment traveling on roads that are already too busy with commuters.

Many of the locals participated in the “2009-2010 Master Plan Meeting” which produced a no change to the airport footprint. A decision which was quietly manipulated and changed, which was quite a surprise to all of us. Now this House Bill 4092 to circumvent regular accepted land-use change brings home the problem of benefits for the few to the chagrin on the many! The entire transit system is seriously over-loaded at present. All of us deserve better by following the land use process and rules that are in place.



In closing, I and the majority of my neighbors will be hamstrung in our day to day movements and operations simply to facilitate the addition of larger jets to the fleet! Corporate small jets can certainly be accommodated as the airport sits today. The larger versions can just utilize the Salem, Hillsboro, Troutdale and/or PDX facilities. Perhaps the highway system is the bigger problem? I know us locals will get the usual NIMBY treatment, but this end run on the land use system just doesn't get it. This sweetheart deal needs to return to the normal, open and legal process that most of us all expect and have been following for years now!

Thank you.

