

February 13, 2018

State of Oregon House of Representatives

Honorable Representatives of the Transportation Committee:

Chair Representative Susan McLain

Chair Representative Mark Meek

Vice-Chair Representative A. Richard Vial

Vice-Chair Representative Daniel Bonham

Representative Paul Evans

Representative Ron Noble

Representative Andrea Salinas

Representative Carl Wilson

Representative Brad Witt

As you work to a final decision concerning HB 4092, please consider our request to table this bill. It will have a direct impact on the livability in our small town of Aurora, OR.

The proponents of the bill have three main points:

1. Safety
2. Economic growth
3. Source of tax revenues

To each point:

1. According to NTSB, all airplane accidents since 1996 have been due to pilot error or maintenance issues. There are no reported accidents that identify the length of the runway as insufficient, and the cause of an accident. The current runway and taxi strip are approved by the FAA and ODA. When pilots follow the proper safety regulations, accidents do not occur as a result of insufficient runway length.

2. There are no studies offered that would be reasonably accurate to predict economic growth for the town of Aurora. There is only speculation based on earlier projections that failed to produce forecasted growth in flights and related business.

3. The greatest source of tax revenues in the vicinity of the Aurora Airport is the property owners that surround it. These property owners have consistently protested the expansion of the runway for over 40 years. The agencies that govern any expansion agree with the citizens that an **expansion should not be done.**

The proponents of this bill have been denied runway expansion for many years by EFU land use laws, environmental studies, and public sentiment. The citizens of the area have been supported by the FAA and ODA findings

and resulting decisions. There is good reason that they want to avoid the normal processes that have protected property owners throughout this state. They can't win any other way. If they succeed, they will set a precedent for anyone with enough money and influence to be able to acquire land for their purposes. This cannot happen.

My wife and I are part of a growing trend of retirees that are leaving the metro area in search of quiet, affordable housing. Many of the couples in our neighborhood are new retirees that are deeply appreciative of the culture and quietness of Aurora.

Please consider protecting the current land use laws and the livability of our small town and the surrounding land owners that rely on the law and processes dictated by the State of Oregon to protect them.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Yvonne Rua de King

Jerry P. King

20836 Yukon St NE

Aurora, OR 97002