

648 Luscombe St
Independence, OR 97351
April 12, 2019

Dear Co-Chairs Rep. McKeown and Sen. Beyer,

My husband and I would like to ask that you support HB2402.

Prior to HB 2075 passing in 2015, the Oregon Department of Aviation, ODA, relied on pilot registration fees, aircraft registration fees and Connect Oregon money to maintain our Oregon airports. HB2075 raised jet fuel and avgas taxes by \$.02/gallon to \$.11 for aviation fuel and \$.03 for jet fuel. ODA eliminated pilot registration fees and lost the ability to receive Connect Oregon funds. The current amount of tax money is not enough to maintain General Aviation (GA) in Oregon. An additional \$.02 per gallon above HB2075 provision of avgas and jet fuel is important for ODA to adequately support aviation in Oregon.

I would like to explain that there is a looming shortage of pilots, aircraft technicians, aeronautical engineers, Air Traffic Controllers and other aviation professionals. Training for these professions is expensive. The U.S. military has historically trained men and women for these skills during their years of military service. Many of those individuals sought employment in the private sector once they completed their military service.

Our military does not train enough people anymore in these critical areas to satisfy the future demand, especially pilots. Drones are replacing manned flight for many purposes. Those who control drones are not pilots. At the current time, only 33% of commercial pilots received their training during military service. The rest of the commercial pilots have trained as civilians through General Aviation. GA is a vital industry in Oregon. ODA needs the fuel tax funds to be permanent to keep GA healthy.

Oregon is a strong participant in the training of aviation professionals. The FAA website lists 25 flight schools in Oregon. There are additional schools that actively train pilots not on the list, including 2 in Independence. There are 3 community colleges in Oregon that offer aircraft maintenance degrees, Portland Community College, Lane Community and Central Oregon Community Oregon. In addition, Oregon universities offer other aviation related degrees such as aeronautical engineering and airport management. GA is a vital part of Oregon's economy. Failure to support General Aviation in Oregon causes this economic opportunity to go to other states.

A U.S. DOT report from 2017, The Economic Impact of Civil Aviation on the U.S. Economy, states the following statistics for Oregon:

Hillsboro airport is the 6th busiest GA airport in the United States

GA is responsible for 3.4% of Oregon's GDP

GA is responsible for approximately 100,000 Oregon jobs

I invite you to contact me for further discussion.

Sincerely,
Marcia Noell – private pilot 503-931-5127
Frank Noell