



Sent via email to jct.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

February 9, 2020

Dear Senator Lee Beyer & Representative Caddy McKeown, Co-chairs, of the Joint Committee on Transportation regarding HB 4036,

Thank you for your hard work on behalf of all airports in the State of Oregon, especially the Crater Lake – Klamath Regional Airport. I support the Oregon Airport Management Association's position on HB 4036 and wanted to provide specific information related to my airport.

I represent the Crater Lake – Klamath Regional Airport (LMT) owned and operated by the City of Klamath Falls. LMT has the second longest runway in the State supporting the 173rd Fighter Wing of the Oregon Air National Guard – the only F-15 C/D training facility in the U.S. The Airport staff (6) are responsible for maintaining 109+ lane miles of pavement, 345,000 sf of paint markings, 725+ lights, 90+ lighted signs, 45,000 feet of fence, and a 24,000 sf terminal building and associated parking.

LMT has been the beneficiary of three grants provided through HB 2075 that passed in 2015. That bill created the Aviation System Airport Program (ASAP) grants. Two of those grants are the Critical Oregon Airport Relief (COAR) and Rural Oregon Aviation Relief (ROAR) programs. I began my tenure in Klamath Falls just after HB 2075 became law. Since that time, I've been actively pursuing options to continue and improve this program. Without a change to the current law, the law and its funding support is programmed to sunset in January 2, 2022. These are critical funds supporting LMT and every public use airport in the State. **The sunset needs to be removed.**

Since the program's inception, LMT has received approximately \$350,000 in State COAR and ROAR grants to assist the airport meet its federal funding requirements for critical airport infrastructure and air service. Those few dollars helped LMT leverage over \$7.2M in federal funding to provide Airport Improvement Program (AIP) dollars and assist with air service. LMT's match requirement for federal AIP grants is 6.25%. For example, a \$6M taxiway project requires the City of Klamath Falls to come up with \$375,000. While this may seem insignificant to some, it is 22% of the airport's \$1.7M operating budget – just to repair one taxiway.

Please do not let these critical matching dollars disappear on your watch! Your continued support and consideration are appreciated.

Sincerely,

John T. Barsalou, A.A.E.

Airport Director

Crater Lake – Klamath Regional Airport