



Bay Area Chamber of Commerce

...our business is helping your business

February 25, 2020

Joint Committee on Transportation

Sen. Lee Beyer Co-Chair

Rep. Caddy McKeown Co-Chair

Sen. Brian Boquist Co-Vice Chair

Rep. Ron Noble Co-Vice Chair

The Bay Area Chamber of Commerce supports HB 4036 as introduced. We are supportive because of the additional two cents per gallon in aviation fuel taxes to support the Oregon Department of Aviation's grant programs. These programs are a critical funding source for rural airports and many of them are matched by federal funds at rates as high as a 9:1 match, which delivers an impressive return on investment.

Our Chamber encompasses the cities of Coos Bay, North Bend and Charleston in Coos County. Our local airport, the Southwest Oregon Regional Airport, has received \$591,834 in funding from ODA grants since 2016 for projects that have included runway safety improvements, airfield lighting and signage, and a minimum revenue guarantee to attract air service.

This funding helps keep our airport safe and viable so it can provide air service to our community. Portland is a four-hour drive away and Eugene is a two-hour drive away, so having local air service helps connect us to the rest of the state and country. For our community, a flight to Portland makes it easier for people to access medical and business appointments.

The additional two cents per gallon in aviation fuel taxes is a reasonable request and is the only option available for providing state support for Oregon's rural airports.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Todd Goergen, President

Bay Area Chamber of Commerce

Timm Slater, Executive Director

Bay Area Chamber of Commerce