

Submitter: Bryan Despain
On Behalf Of: Columbia Gorge Community College
Committee: House Committee on Education
Measure: SB482

As Chief Developer and Lead Instructor of the newly FAA Certificated Aviation Maintenance Technology Program, Certificate #CGCK657K I find it imperative that I provide my testimony to this committee.

Aviation Maintenance Technicians perform their craft in a highly demanding environment. They perform in all types of weather, indoors and out. They function at peak levels of efficiency and are held to the highest of standards to provide an end product that performs flawlessly in the most extreme of environments in the skies above us.

In order to reach these levels of efficiency a perspective Aviation Maintenance Technician (AMT) must receive a level of training and examination accepted by the FAA that exhibits elements of understanding and proficient performance of many disciplines. These include but are not limited to electrical theory and practical circuitry trouble shooting, materials and processes, inspection concepts, aero-dynamic theory and application in repair and overhaul of airframe structures, powerplant (reciprocating and gas turbine) theory application, repair, and overhaul.

Locating this training opportunity at an active airport in close proximity to an active fixed base operator (FBO) will provide a proximity to active aircraft movement areas that will by environmental immersion, instill a safety culture compliant with best practices in the industry. Safety will also be enhanced through direct contact and collaboration with practicing aviation maintenance professionals. Local aviators will be able to more easily expose their projects to the students, enabling conversation and partnership in the educational experience.

As a final thought, Cost. The cost associated with acceptance of training project equipment and appliances that may be purchased or donated is greatly reduced if our facilities are located on an airfield. When an aircraft is offered in donation to the school it is currently required to be dismantled to a level that it can be loaded to a trailer and transported to our warehouse classroom. Once arriving, it must then be off-loaded and reassembled. This must be accomplished at a cost that can be prohibitive and we must decline such support. This in turn, discredits our program in the view of the community that wishes to place their full support behind the Aviation Maintenance Technology program at CGCC.

Please vote in favor of this measure, as it will support Columbia Gorge Community College as it strives to support the educational needs of our region's underserved population seeking to develop their skills, qualifying them for a highly compensated career with airlines, MRO, FBO and manufactures that will comfortably support themselves and their families.