

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Department of Aviation Oakridge Airport Improvements

To: Ways and Means Full Committee
From: Transportation and Economic Development Subcommittee
Carrier: Representative Gomberg

On February 20th, the Transportation and Economic Development Subcommittee recommended approval of the submission of a federal grant application from the Department of Aviation to the U.S. Economic Development Administration in the amount of \$5 million to improve the Oakridge Airport.

The Oakridge Airport, designated as a Remote Access/Emergency Services Airport in Lane County, serves as a base during wildfire season for federal and state agencies to detect and suppress wildfires. If awarded, the grant will be used to rehabilitate the airport apron and runway and improve wildfire management by investing in new technology infrastructure, including sensor equipment and software for long-distance drones. These drones have the potential to enhance wildfire detection, support night operations, and enable regional cargo transportation.

The grant application is due on February 29th. The total estimated project cost is \$6.25 million. In addition to the grant proceeds of \$5 million, the agency will provide the required 20% match of \$1.25 million from State Owned Airport Reserve funds.

The Transportation and Economic Development Subcommittee recommends approval.