



February 8, 2024

Joint Committee on Transportation
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Co-Chair Gorsek, Co-Chair McLain and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Port of Portland, I am writing in support of HB 4109. The Port of Portland exists to enhance the region's economy and quality of life. With three airports, four marine terminals, five business parks and hundreds of employees, we move with purpose to transform our region and state into a place where everyone is welcome, empowered and connected to opportunity.

The Port of Portland has benefitted from many Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) grants for planning, design and engineering, and capital improvement or rehabilitation projects. However, these grant programs typically require a match contribution that can be particularly burdensome for small regional airports. Allowing Oregon Department of Aviation or Connect Oregon Funds to be used as eligible match for FAA grant programs will enable Oregon's small general aviation airports to compete for resources that improve their safety, resilience, and infrastructure needs.

For these reasons I urge your support of HB 4109.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carmen Merlo" followed by a horizontal line.

Carmen Merlo,
State Affairs Manager