

**Subject: Support for Jet Fuel Tax
Increase to Strengthen the Oregon
Department of Aviation and the ASAP
Grant Program**



Dear Joint Transportation Committee Members,

On behalf of Sisters Eagle Airport (6K5), I am writing to express our strong support for the proposed increase in the jet fuel tax (HB2153), which will provide essential funding for the Oregon Department of Aviation (ODAV) and expand the Aviation System Action Plan (ASAP) fund. As a recipient of several grants funded by ODAV, we have seen firsthand how these resources are crucial in maintaining and improving airport infrastructure, safety, operational readiness, and emergency response efforts.

The Sisters Airport is in a unique position as a Public Resource that is entirely privately funded outside of ASAP grants. Restored from a historically failed condition, the Sisters Airport provides for rural life safety and economic development as the nearest airport infrastructure east of the Cascades. The ASAP grant program has been instrumental in allowing the airport to expand fuel resiliency for firefighting and wildlife transport aviation, new pilot and FBO services, and a distinct public/private partnership in high school flight training. The continuation and expansion of the ASAP program will help sustain airport infrastructure, runway protection, and security.

The ASAP grant program offers key benefits to Oregon airports:

- Equitable Access to Resources distributed across airports of all sizes, including small rural airstrips like Sisters Airport, to regional hubs.
- Local Airport Economic and Community Impact including Life Safety, Tourism, and Business expansion resources.
- Resiliency and Sustainability for critical transportation infrastructure.

ODAV has awarded 257 grants to Oregon airports, distributing over \$20.8 million toward airport projects with a collective value of nearly \$308 million across Oregon. Despite the grant program's success, demand consistently outpaces available funding. As infrastructure needs continue to grow and construction costs rise, a sustainable funding source is vital to maintaining a safe, reliable, and resilient aviation network across Oregon.

Sustainable and dedicated funding is necessary to keep our aviation infrastructure strong and resilient. A modest increase in the jet fuel tax would provide the ODAV with the necessary resources for continued support to airports across the state.

We strongly urge you to support this funding measure and help ensure that Oregon's airports can continue serving their communities effectively. Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact me at Julie@SistersAirport.com if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Julie Benson
Owner/Manager, Sisters Eagle Airport (6K5)