

March 26, 2025

Joint Committee on Transportation  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, Oregon 97701

**RE: Support for HB 2153**

Co-Chairs Gorsek and McLain, Co-Vice Chairs Starr and Boshart Davis, and members of the Joint Committee on Transportation:

On behalf of the McMinnville Economic Development Partnership (MEDP), I urge your support for HB 2153. This bill, which increases the tax on turbine-engine aircraft fuel and adjusts it with the Consumer Price Index, will provide critical funding for airport infrastructure across Oregon.

Oregon's airports are essential to economic growth, workforce mobility, and business development. Access to federal Airport Improvement Program (AIP) grants offers a 90% cost share for infrastructure upgrades, but only if airports can meet the required local match. HB 2153 will provide this crucial funding, reducing financial strain on local governments and taxpayers.

At the McMinnville Municipal Airport, we are seeing increased corporate aviation use, which directly supports our region's economic future. Adjacent to the airport, the planned Innovation Campus represents one of Oregon's most significant opportunities for high-wage job creation, research and development, and next-generation manufacturing. Spanning nearly 200 acres, the Innovation Campus is designed to foster a high-density employment hub with Class A office space, incubators, and manufacturing facilities. The airport is a critical asset for the success of this vision, providing the infrastructure necessary for business travel, corporate aviation, and the transportation of high-value goods.

Strategic investment in airport infrastructure ensures that McMinnville remains competitive in attracting high-wage industries. As advanced manufacturing, aerospace, and new mobility technologies emerge, well-equipped airports will be key to sustaining economic momentum.

Passing HB 2153 is an investment in Oregon's economic future. It will ensure our airports remain engines of innovation, helping communities like McMinnville attract high-wage industries, drive business expansion, and compete in a rapidly evolving economy. I urge your support to secure the infrastructure that will shape Oregon's next generation of economic success. Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

*Patty Herzog*

Patty Herzog  
Executive Director

McMinnville Economic Development Partnership (MEDP)