

Oregon House of Representatives
Transportation and Economic Development Committee
April 10, 2013

Dear Members of the Committee,

I, Mary Rosenblum, reside at 24198 S. Skylane Drive, Canby, Oregon. I appear before you today as a landowner whose holdings also includes shared legal responsibility for the private grass landing strip of Dietz Airpark, through my membership in the Dietz Homeowners Association. As a landowner and a pilot, I urge the committee to adopt House Bill 2016, the recreational use statutes bill that relieves property owners of liability when aircraft land on their property for recreational purposes.

There are both safety and recreational reasons to pass this bill. A search of NTSB accident reports yields multiple instances where aircraft have crashed because the pilot tried to stretch the plane's flight after an engine failure, overflying private strips and agricultural fields in order to reach a public use airstrip. If there is a wider understanding that the landowner is protected from liability and not likely to be hostile, pilots may feel more comfortable about choosing that grassy field or private strip rather than opting for the riskier attempt to land at a public strip.

In today's world of sequestration, budget cuts, and a weak economy, both state and federal governments are trimming budgets and cutting programs. It is becoming more and more costly to provide recreational opportunities to our growing population. By protecting private landowners from liability, the state encourages private owners to make their land more accessible to recreational access. The fear of liability has caused numerous landowners, myself included, to close their property to public access where it was once open. Removing this liability concern can open thousands of acres to public access without costing the state of Oregon one dime for purchase or maintenance.

In no way does this bill grant the public the right to access private land, it merely protects the owner from legal liability if the pilot chooses to land at his or her own risk. This bill is a win-win for the pilot and the landowner both, and I respectfully urge the Committee to recommend it to pass.

Respectfully,



Mary Rosenblum
President-elect Oregon Pilots Association