



April 9, 2015

Re: House Bill 2075

Dear House Revenue Committee,

I am writing this letter to urge you to vote “yes” on House Bill 2075. The proposed increase in the aviation and jet fuel tax is imperative to maintaining and growing our aviation infrastructure and furthering economic development in Oregon’s aviation industry.

Oregon has a rich history in General Aviation, including some of the most successful and well-respected aviation-related companies in the world; yet many of our airports are in a sad state of disrepair. Why are we allowing our airports to deteriorate while having a fuel tax that is a fraction compared to our neighboring states? It makes no sense.

My business provides state-of-the-art cockpit instruments to the Home-Built and Light-Sport Aircraft Industries. Advanced Flight Systems is like many Oregon companies that exist thanks to the effort and dedication of Oregon’s early aviation pioneers that fought for the right to fly aircraft built somewhere other than a production line. I attend many aviation trade shows (including China and Europe) and cannot tell you how many times I hear “why are so many aviation companies located in Oregon?”

Oregon can continue this momentum through the improvement and maintenance of our airports or we can let our aviation infrastructure continue to deteriorate until we become non-competitive and aviation jobs move elsewhere. The impact on the fuel consumer is marginal, merely bringing us in-line with our neighboring states, but the benefit to the Oregon aviation economy is tremendous.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Hickman", written in a cursive style.

**Robert Hickman
President
Advanced Flight Systems, Inc.**