

February 16, 2017

To the Senate Committee On Business and Transportation:

This letter is in regards to Senate Bill 128 (Creates Hillsboro Airport Authority and Troutdale Airport Authority as divisions of Port of Portland). As the newly seated mayor of Troutdale, I have some concerns about this legislation.

The Port of Portland owns and operates the Troutdale Airport and we have worked closely with them in the acquisition and development of the adjacent Troutdale Reynolds Industrial Park (TRIP). In 2015, the Port of Portland completed a 20-month Master Plan process for the Troutdale Airport that involved the participation of airport users, local citizens and business interests, the West Columbia Gorge Chamber of Commerce and the cities of Troutdale, Gresham, Wood Village and Fairview. The Port sought the advice of this broad group of stakeholders because the airport is not just a facility for the airport's users, but it also a large community asset for job development and economic opportunities.

Through this process, the community and city leaders alike became quite familiar with the complex nature of general aviation airport management - especially when it comes to financial sustainability. Currently, both the Hillsboro Airport and Troutdale airport are not financially self-sufficient. While I'm hopeful for the long term financial self-sufficiency of the Troutdale Airport, I understand that it currently relies on certain revenues generated at PDX and that funding could be in jeopardy with fragmented oversight of the Port of Portland's assets – as this bill would create.

I'm also unclear as to what problems this bill would actually solve. The separate airport authorities would be subject to the same legal framework the Port of Portland operates under. For example, the Port of Portland cannot control where aircraft fly, impose curfews for flight operations ban certain types of fuel – all of that is the authority of the FAA and other regulatory agencies. Also, the financial challenges associated with this airport will not be solved by a separate authority – especially one that brings no new revenue.

We have a very good working relationship with the Port of Portland. They have actively sought out diverse community perspectives on the airport and have been responsive to concerns. Please take a closer look at the on-the-ground reality of these community assets, and what it takes to keep them going.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Casey Ryan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Troutdale Mayor Casey Ryan