



Josephine County, Oregon

Department of Airports

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February 25, 2019

Ways and Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development

Senator James Manning, Jr. (Co-Chair)

Representative David Gomberg (Co-Chair)

Senator Jeff Golden

Senator Bill Hansell

Representative Paul Evans

Representative Gary Leif

Representative Rachel Prusak

Representative Shelly Boshart Davis

900 Court St. NE

Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: 2019-2021 Regional Infrastructure Fund (RIF)

Dear Members of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development,

Josephine County has benefitted tremendously in the past several years from jobs created directly as a result of Business Oregon's Regional Solutions assistance; first in the 30% design and environmental determination required for a new taxiway to be built at the Grants Pass Airport, and again now with a grant to help us complete a fire-suppression water system at the Illinois Valley Airport near Cave Junction. For these reasons alone I urge you to support SB 5524, relating to the financial administration of the Oregon Business Development Department.

In the case of the "Taxiway Bravo" effort, almost \$2 Million Dollars in federal funding (FAA AIP Grant-011) flowed into Josephine County as a direct result of the RIF Grant (RS1614) which provided the leverage sparking the FAA to action. Without this RIF Grant, we would likely STILL be without Taxiway Bravo at the Grants Pass Airport, and businesses in the County who use aircraft to expand and further their reach would not be flourishing to the extent they are. In just one case alone, Dutch Bros started an aviation department just as the RIF Grant was made, enabling them to access the runway in a safe and efficient manner, and DOUBLING their coffee kiosk count in the past three years, from 160 to over 320. Significant job-creation has occurred all over Oregon and within Josephine County as a result.

The current \$250K RIF Grant (RS1906) enabling the completion of the fire-suppression water system at the Illinois Valley Industrial Airpark will open up development within this depressed area of Josephine County and allow businesses, both aviation- and non-aviation-related, to open up for the first time, assured of fire-protection where currently there is none. Each new business which begins to operate in the Industrial Airpark will contribute productive jobs and wealth-creation in Josephine County.

The Regional Solutions program is vitally important to Josephine County, and I urge you to consider this as you deliberate the fate of SB 5524 in the coming days, weeks and months.

Thank you very much,



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