

Southwest Airlines Co.
Governmental Affairs
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Simi Valley, CA 93065
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April 12, 2019

The Honorable Lee Beyer
Co-Chair, Joint Transportation Committee
State Capitol
900 Court St. NE, S-411
Salem, Oregon 97301

The Honorable Caddy McKeown
Co-Chair, Joint Transportation Committee
State Capitol
900 Court St. NE, H-476
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Committee Co-Chairs:

Southwest Airlines respectfully opposes House Bill 2402, pre-filed in the 2019 legislative session by the House Interim Committee on Transportation, to increase the state's excise tax on jet fuel. We believe that increasing the tax could hurt the airline industry's capacity to expand commercial air service in Oregon. The proposal strains an intensely fuel-sensitive industry, making operating at Oregon airports more expensive and increasing the cost burden on airlines and their customers.

Southwest Airlines is proud to serve Portland International Airport with 46 daily departures to 16 cities throughout the country and connections to our network of national and international destinations. We began service to Portland in June 1994, and employ over 230 full-time employees. We contribute positively to the community and state through direct economic investments, jobs creation, and community partnerships.

We appreciate consideration of our views, and urge rejection of the proposed legislation.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ruben Zaragoza". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Ruben Zaragoza
Advisor - State/Local
Governmental Affairs

Copy: Members of the Joint Transportation Committee