



Josephine County Airports
(541) 955-4535
1441 Brookside Blvd.
Grants Pass, OR 97526
www.josephinecounty.gov

To: Representative Nancy Nathanson, Chair House Committee on Revenue

From: Larry Graves President, Oregon Airport Management Association (OAMA)
 Director, Josephine County Airports

Date: June 7, 2021

Re: HB 2434

As the Director of Josephine County's two airports, and President of the Oregon Airport Management Association, I would like to offer you important information in support of the elimination of the sunset on a two-cent Jet-A fuel tax, part of HB 2434.

The additional two-cent tax on Jet fuel supplies 100% of the Oregon Aviation System Action Program funding, which includes ODA's COAR, ROAR and SOAR Programs. One of these programs, COAR, supplies matching grants to small airport operators in the state of Oregon, who can then leverage those grant monies 9-to-1 in obtaining FAA capital grants for badly needed infrastructure that they are unable to afford on their own.

The ASAP Program has provided more than \$8M to Oregon's small airports which they have in turn used to fund more than 130 projects at 50 or more of the state's airports, bringing in more than \$50M in capital grants from the FAA's Airport Improvement Program. It is very likely that these larger FAA grants would not have been offered or obtained if the COAR Grant money was not available to use as match.

This is a very real case of the users paying for these infrastructure improvements, as opposed to the general public, because aviation fuel is sold at nearly all of the airports in Oregon, and those users are paying for the improvements made at those airports with their tax money.

Josephine County Airports Department and the Oregon Airport Management Association fully support the elimination of the sunset on these aviation fuel taxes.