



To: Honorable Co-chairs Beyer & McLain, Members of the Joint Transportation Committee
From: Josh Pruzek, Northwest Mountain Regional Manager, Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA)
Date: February 2, 2021
Re: AOPA Support of HB 2034

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) is the world's largest General Aviation association, consisting of nearly 330,000 members nationwide, including 4,988 members in Oregon. **AOPA supports Oregon HB 2034.**

Oregon's 97 public-use airports are a valuable component of the State's public transportation infrastructure and are critical to the communities they serve. They provide a vital, quantifiable role in the local economy, with benefits that far exceed the tax dollars spent operating and maintaining them.

Public-use airports have limited means of generating revenue and often have difficulties producing matching funds to leverage state and federal grants necessary for critical maintenance and safety projects. The fuel tax revenue raised by HB 2075 is a vital funding mechanism for Oregon's public-use airports. This revenue is in danger of being lost when the fuel tax increase passed by HB 2075 sunsets in January 2022. Failure to remove the sunset on the 2015 legislation will result in a shortage of funds and an accumulation of deferred maintenance and safety issues at airports across the State.

HB 2034 helps to ensure that Oregon's public-use airports can meet their obligations to continue to fund critical maintenance and safety projects necessary to continue to serve the communities they support. **AOPA supports the existing fuel tax established by HB 2075 and urges you to vote in favor of HB 2034.**