

Felisa Hagins
Joint Committee on Transportation
February 2, 2021

Testimony in Favor of House Bill 2034

Co-Chairs Beyer and McLain, members of the committee:

My name is Felisa Hagins. I am the Political Director of SEIU Local 49. I'm here today to testify in support of HB 2034 on behalf of SEIU 49 & SEIU 503. SEIU represents state and local government workers including the department of aviation and airport workers. SEIU 49 airport workers assist passengers with wheelchairs, cleaning aircraft cabins and cleaning the airport terminal. SEIU 503 and 49 members do jobs that keep passengers healthy and safe, and make air travel possible.

HB 2034 removes the sunset on the three cent jet fuels tax that was renewed in 2015. SEIU supports HB 2034 because maintaining the tax rate on jet fuel at three cents per gallon and directing those revenues to aviation development is modest and reasonable. Our state should continue investing in air transportation long term that is safe, efficient, and equitable and creates access throughout the state of Oregon.

Oregon has a critical need for additional aviation related revenue. A recent FAA decision requires all monies collected through state jet fuel taxes to be used "for the capital or operating costs of the airport." Current state law and this bill allow for these revenues to be invested in emergency preparedness, services critical or essential to aviation, aviation-related business development, and airport development for local economic benefit.

These investments could include additional training for workers and money to support wages and benefits during our economic recovery. Over the last several years our union has worked hard to increase standards for the subcontracted workers Nationally and at Portland International Airport. Continuing to develop our air travel and maintaining one of the best Airports in America requires an investment in both people and place.

SEIU recommends a 'yes' vote on HB2034. Thank you, I'm happy to answer any questions.



SERVICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION