

Submitter: Elias Ferguson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB482

Dear Senators,

My name is Elias Ferguson. I am writing this Testimony in support of SB 482. This bill is important to me because I am currently enrolled in Columbia Gorge Community Colleges Aviation Maintenance program, and I know that this bill will benefit us more than anything. The facility we are currently utilizing is a warehouse on Crates Way. This warehouse is at least half the size of the hanger we could occupy at the airport facility.

The Airport Facility provides some much needed space for engines, aircraft, new learning tools and most of all new students and instructors. The warehouse we currently occupy on Crates Way is already at full capacity and there are only 11 students. We know that there are many more just waiting to join this brand new and unique program but currently they have to wait at least 18 months for the program cycle to complete since we only have one full time instructor. Moving to the Airport would solve these problems, we would have the space to start another class, space for new learning tools and most importantly space to thrive and grow.

While the Airport Facility provides much needed space it also provides us students with an environment that more closely resembles the one we will be working in. An active airport presents a unique and new level of awareness, communication and safety standards that are just not present anywhere else. This environment is just like the one that we are educating ourselves to work in and getting the experience now will do nothing but benefit us and prepare us for the work force we are training to join.

In conclusion, the expansion of this program over to the Columbia Gorge Regional Airport is invaluable to the development of not only this program but the students as well. We will be provided much needed space for new learning tools. We will be able to more readily form and practice habits that will keep us safe now and in our future careers.

Please consider all that has been argued and make the right decision in passing SB 482.

Have a fantastic day,

Elias Ferguson