



April 4, 2023

Chairman Gorsek  
Charmain McLain  
Joint Committee on Transportation  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

**RE: OPPOSITION TO HB 2834**

Dear Chairmans Gorsek and McLain,

As an organization that represents member companies who are developing advanced air mobility systems (AAM) in Oregon, we are reaching out today to express our opposition to HB 2834. As currently written, this measure would prohibit the exclusive use of vertiports, which will result in serious unintended consequences for both the State and the AAM industry.

The Association for Uncrewed Vehicle Systems International (AUVSI) is the world's largest nonprofit organization dedicated to the advancement of uncrewed systems and robotics, representing corporations and professionals from more than sixty countries involved in industry, government, and academia.

AAM is a revolutionary way to move people and goods in, around, and between communities. It has the potential to transform states economies and connectivity, creating a new industry that will bring jobs and investment and can be used to increase rural healthcare access, aid in disaster situations, redefine urban mobility, and more. We appreciate that Oregon is trying to enable this industry and ensure all are able to reap its benefits, but HB 2834 is misguided in this attempt.

In prohibiting the exclusive development or control of vertiports, HB 2834 will handicap the AAM industry. There are a small number of companies that are currently developing this emerging technology, and the restrictions on the development of vertiports will make it extremely difficult to build the necessary infrastructure for successful AAM operations. Additionally, there are legitimate and substantial uses in which exclusive-use infrastructure is required. A vertiport at a hospital or medical supply facility for example, could and should be limited to one or two operators. Exclusive-use infrastructure provides control over the operation of facilities that is not achievable under a public-use format, and the justifiable necessity of that control must be considered.

In prohibiting exclusive-use development and operation of vertiports, Oregon will not just restrict the benefits that AAM can provide, but also inhibit economic development in the State. HB 2834 will disincentivize companies from investing in Oregon, preventing the state and localities from reaping the potential economic growth. AAM is an emerging technology, and we urge Oregon to consider the benefit of flexibility at this primordial stage, and refrain from overly prescribing how infrastructure must be used.

AUVSI has member companies who operate within Oregon, providing valuable economic benefits and expertise on the subject matter relevant to all advanced aviation operations in the State. Additionally, Oregon is home to our Cascade chapter, which consists of residents that use this technology for commercial operations. Our goal is to have a fluid line of communication between the State, our members, and our Cascade chapter.

We greatly appreciate your consideration of our views and are happy to discuss revisions to this bill, as well as address any questions you may have about our observations.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Smitsky". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "M".

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