



April 18, 2023

Chairman Chris Gorsek
Chairman Susan McLain
Joint Committee on Transportation
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: SUPPORT OF HB 3257

Chairmen Gorsek and McLain,

As an organization that represents member companies who are participants in the advanced air mobility (AAM) industry in Oregon, we are reaching out today to express our support for HB 3257. This measure creates a task force on electric aircraft to identify issues with and recommend strategies for its implementation.

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.

Electric aircraft operations are on the cusp of commercialization. They are cleaner and quieter than traditional aircraft, offering immense environmental benefits and reducing noise pollution. Electric aircraft are also an important part of the future of air mobility, with electric vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL) vehicles offering a revolutionary way to move people and goods in, around, and between communities.

For the benefits of this new industry to be fully realized, proper infrastructure and implementation planning must be developed. In establishing the task force on electric aircraft, Oregon is taking the necessary steps to ensure their State will be ready and able to integrate these aircraft into the current transportation structure. Additionally, the formation of a pilot program to develop and workshop the modification of current airports for advanced aviation aircraft will allow for existing infrastructure to be transformed into crucial resources moving forward.


AUVSI encourages Oregon to go one step further in its support of electric aircraft by providing funding for the task force. Task forces are crucial tools in the advancement of new technology, but often require a significant investment on the Department's part. For the task force to have the strongest outcome and to allow for proper and effective private-public collaboration, we urge its funding.

The future of aviation is now, with the next generation of aircraft promising to revolutionize the way people and goods move through urban and rural locations. With electric aircraft on the edge of realization, now is the time to invest further in advanced aviation infrastructure.

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. Aviation electrification and autonomy are happening fast, and as such our membership makes AUVSI uniquely situated to help achieve the objectives of the advisory committee.

We greatly appreciate your consideration of our views and welcome the opportunity to address any questions you may have about implementation, policy, or development regarding electric aircraft in Oregon.

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".

Mike Smitsky, Esq.
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