

Submitter: Bruce Bennett

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Veterans, Emergency
Management, Federal and World Affairs

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SCR2

Thank you for taking the time to consider this very important issue, Having flown off the Aurora Airport since 1973 continuously to present except for 3 years overseas in Army Aviation. After my family bought airport property there in 1968. I have personally flown 13,940 flight hours from the Aurora airport and most of these were short-notice emergency flights, from helping the USGS study the eruption of Mt. St. Helens, to flights assisting derailed train recovery, flights supporting State and Federal forest service fire suppression, Medical flights to every part of the continental USA and Alaska, and every kind of emergency imaginable. During this time I have watched the Aurora Airport develop into a base for 3 of the major world leading helicopter operations (all of which utilized fixed-wing support aircraft), the headquarters for Wilson Construction's incredible powerline replacement flight operations, Life-Flights Headquarters, multiple local, state, and federal law-enforcement agency flight departments, and many of the major local employers flight departments as well as hundreds of small local businesses. While the Aurora airport does many wonderful things like helping local youth on their way to excellent aviation careers, repairing and manufacturing aircraft, and hugely supporting the state and local economy. I believe that with the Airports location next to I5 and 99E and in an extremely stable, flat area, with the incredible world-class facilities and operations based there, it is a natural major resiliency asset for Oregon. As you probably are aware, Aurora was built in 1943 by the US military as a back-up for PDX in case PDX was bombed or flooded. It is a very fitting legacy that Aurora now regularly assists 24/7/365 in emergencies of all sorts and stands ready to be the leader in recovery for the majority of the States population after the forecast Cascadia subduction event. If you have any doubt of the Aurora Airports capabilities, please contact me for a tour, as a drive by on hwy 551 only shows the outside of what is an extremely vibrant, productive, capable, highly-skilled and active operation. Thank you
Bruce Bennett