



March 12, 2025

Joint Committee on Transportation  
Oregon State Legislature

Subject: Support for House Bill 2153 – Increasing Jet-A Fuel Tax to Sustain and Enhance Oregon’s Aviation Infrastructure

Dear Committee Members,

The Grant County Regional Airport strongly supports House Bill 2153, which proposes a modest increase in the jet fuel tax to provide critical funding for the Aviation System Action Program (ASAP) and the Critical Oregon Airport Relief (COAR) grant program. These programs are essential to maintaining and improving Oregon’s aviation infrastructure, which plays a vital role in supporting local economies, public services, and community safety.

At the Grant County Regional Airport, we have experienced firsthand the value of these grant programs. They provide necessary resources to sustain and enhance our operations, ensuring we can continue to serve our community effectively. However, the demand for funding consistently exceeds available resources. In the past grant cycles, numerous qualified projects across the state went unfunded. As infrastructure ages and construction costs rise, it is more important than ever to establish a stable and sustainable funding source to keep Oregon’s aviation system safe, operational, and resilient.

These programs ensure equitable access to resources by supporting airports of all sizes—from small rural airports to larger regional hubs—helping every community maintain and improve vital aviation services. Airports like ours are economic engines, fostering business growth, supporting tourism, and providing essential public safety functions such as emergency medical transport and wildfire response. Increased funding is crucial to sustain these services and ensure airports can meet the evolving needs of the communities they serve.

Additionally, ASAP and COAR grants play a key role in strengthening systemwide resiliency. They enable airports to upgrade aging infrastructure, improve safety measures, and prepare for future challenges, including adapting to new aviation technologies. These state-level investments are also essential in leveraging federal dollars, as many large-scale projects depend on matching funds to secure significant federal contributions. Without consistent state funding, Oregon risks losing these opportunities and falling behind in critical infrastructure improvements.

The Grant County Regional Airport is an essential part of our community, contributing to economic development and providing critical public services. Continued investment through HB 2153 will allow us—and airports across the state—to maintain safe, efficient operations while preparing for future growth and emerging challenges.

We urge your support for House Bill 2153 to ensure Oregon’s aviation infrastructure remains strong, reliable, and capable of serving the diverse needs of our communities. Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation. We welcome the opportunity to provide additional information or discuss the positive impact of these programs further.

Sincerely,

Haley Walker  
Airport Manager  
Grant County Regional Airport

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**72000 Airport Road John Day, OR 97845**

email: [walkerh@grantcounty-or.gov](mailto:walkerh@grantcounty-or.gov)

o: 541.575.1151 -- c: 541.620.2239 --

<http://www.grantcountyoregon.net/150/airport>