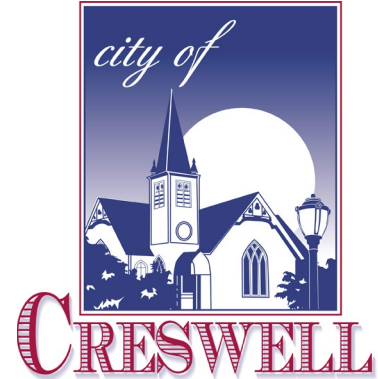


City of Creswell
13 S, 1st Street, P.O. Box 276
Creswell, OR 97426
Ph (541) 895-2531 Fax (541) 895-3647



January 27, 2020

Representative Nancy Nathanson
900 Court St. NE, H-279
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Representative Nancy Nathanson,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed jet fuel tax increase outlined in House Bill 2153. This proposed increase is a critical step toward ensuring the continued growth, development, and resilience of our state's airports, especially those general aviation airports that face significant funding challenges.

As you know, many regional and smaller airports are vital to the economic fabric of their surrounding areas; and many operate with limited financial resources and have few opportunities to secure the necessary funding to maintain and improve their infrastructure. The jet fuel tax increase included in House Bill 2153 will provide additional revenue for the Aviation System Action Program (ASAP) and the Critical Oregon Airport Relief (COAR) grant program, a grant funding program that provides an innovative way to address this funding gap. By generating additional revenue, this measure will provide much-needed financial support to airports that are otherwise underfunded and struggle to access capital for essential projects.

This additional funding will not only help airports meet basic operational and infrastructure needs, but also allows these facilities to leverage FAA federal dollars. The ASAP program serves as a match for FAA funding (10 cents on the dollar), enabling airports to significantly amplify their investment in improvements and upgrades. This federal-state funding partnership is vital in ensuring that local airports can enhance their services, expand capacity, and continue to play an essential role in our transportation system.

By strengthening airports' resilience, House Bill 2153 ensures that these essential transportation hubs are better prepared for unforeseen challenges, safeguarding the continuity of aviation and regional connectivity. Moreover, this funding will support resiliency infrastructure projects at airports, which is especially important considering the probability of a Cascadia Earthquake disaster and extreme weather events as witnessed over the last several years. Ensuring our airports are resilient to these challenges is not just a matter of convenience but a necessity for the safety and reliability of air transportation. The ability to invest in resiliency measures will protect our airports and local economies from future disruptions, ensuring they remain operational and able to serve their communities.

Additionally, supporting these airports contributes to broader economic development efforts. Airports are not only transportation hubs; they are economic engines that create jobs, stimulate local businesses, and attract investment. Investing in airport infrastructure through this jet fuel tax increase in House Bill 2153 will not only improve aviation but will also stimulate local economies, create jobs, attract businesses that depend on efficient transportation networks, foster regional growth, increase access to global markets, and contribute to long-term prosperity for our State.

In conclusion, the jet fuel tax increase in House Bill 2153 represents investment in our airport's infrastructure, communities, economic vitality, and resiliency. I strongly urge you to support the passage of this bill, which will ensure that airports across the state can continue to serve their communities, attract investment, and contribute to broader economic growth.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation and for your commitment to advancing the interests of our state's transportation infrastructure.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shelley Humble".

Shelley Humble
Airport Manager
City of Creswell