



Subject: Support for Jet Fuel Tax Increase to Strengthen the Oregon Department of Aviation and the ASAP Grant Program

Dear Representative Shelly Boshart Davis,

On behalf of Columbia Gorge Regional Airport, I am writing to express our strong support for the proposed increase in the jet fuel tax (HB2153), which will provide essential funding for the Oregon Department of Aviation (ODAV) and expand the Aviation System Action Plan (ASAP) fund. As a recipient of grant funding from ODAV, we have seen firsthand how these resources are crucial in maintaining and improving airport infrastructure, safety, operational readiness, and emergency response efforts.

The ASAP grant program has been instrumental in allowing our airport to increase our resiliency and emergency preparedness by providing the funding to install an above ground fuel system on a fuel apron built using FAA/BIL funds with a portion of the matching funds required being from the COAR program, in addition we were able to install our emergency generator to power our terminal building and runway lighting as well as the fuel system. Each of these recent projects have helped in positioning the airport to be a robust and adequate facility for emergency fire operations.

Additionally, the ASAP grant program offers the following key benefits to Oregon airports:

- **Equitable Access to Resources:** Funding is distributed across airports of all sizes, from small rural airstrips to regional hubs, working to ensure each airport has an opportunity.
- **Economic and Community Impact:** Airports support local economies, tourism, emergency services, and wildfire response efforts — benefiting both urban and rural areas.
- **Systemwide Resiliency:** ASAP grants help airports prepare for future challenges, whether upgrading aging infrastructure, enhancing safety measures, or adapting to evolving aviation technologies.
- **Leveraging Federal Dollars:** State grant programs often provide the matching funds required to unlock significantly larger federal investments, multiplying the impact of state-level contributions.

ODAV has awarded 257 grants to Oregon airports, distributing over \$20.8 million toward projects with a collective value of nearly \$308 million. These improvements at not only Columbia Gorge Regional Airport but airports all across Oregon benefit general aviation and economic development, and enhance Oregon airports' ability to support critical services including wildfire response and disaster relief operations. Despite the grant program's success, demand consistently outpaces available funding. As infrastructure needs grow and construction costs rise, a sustainable funding source is vital to maintaining a safe, reliable, and resilient aviation network across Oregon.

Oregon's aviation system contributes significantly to the state's economy, supporting local businesses, tourism, and transportation. However, sustainable and dedicated funding is necessary to keep our aviation network strong and resilient. A modest increase in the jet fuel tax would provide the ODAV with the necessary resources to continue supporting airports across the state while preparing for future challenges.



We strongly urge you to support this funding measure and help ensure that Oregon's airports can continue serving their communities effectively. Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact me at [your contact information] if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Renard", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Jeff Renard

Aviation Management Service

Airport Manager

Columbia Gorge Regional Airport
manager@flycgra.com

541-288-6766