



CITY OF BEND

March 24, 2025

Joint Committee on Transportation  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, Oregon 97701

RE: Support for HB 2153

Co-chairs Gorsek and McLain, Co-Vice Chairs Starr and Boshart Davis, and members of the Joint Committee on Transportation:

The City of Bend supports HB 2153, which increases the tax on aircraft fuel usable in aircraft operated by turbine engines and adjusts the rates biennially according to any increase in the Consumer Price Index. HB 2153 will provide critical funding to maintain and improve aviation infrastructure across Oregon.

The Oregon Department of Aviation (ODAV) is severely understaffed. ODAV is responsible for maintaining 28 state-owned airports but has only three full-time employees dedicated to oversee airport operations, maintenance, and improvements at state-owned airports. Without additional funding, essential maintenance and infrastructure projects will continue to be delayed, affecting airport safety and operations statewide.

Airports across Oregon, including the Bend Municipal Airport, need runway rehabilitation, lighting upgrades, and safety improvements. The bill would increase funding for ODAV and expand the Aviation System Action Plan (ASAP) grant program, which helps airports maintain essential infrastructure. The funding increase will also allow Oregon to take advantage of federal Airport Improvement Program (AIP) matching funds, stretching state dollars further. Bend has directly benefited from the ASAP program. Over the last five years, ASAP funding has supported the Bend Airport Master Plan, Runway Signage Upgrades, Installation of Taxiway Medium Intensity Lights, Taxilane Pavement Maintenance Management, and the nation's newest Air Traffic Control Tower.

Electric aircraft and advanced air mobility (AAM) are rapidly approaching. HB 2153 will also provide funding for charging infrastructure, on airport electrical upgrades, and modernization projects, ensuring Oregon's airports are ready for these new technologies. Oregon needs proactive planning to avoid falling behind in preparing for the transition to sustainable aviation.

I urge you to support HB 2153 and provide ODAV with the resources needed to sustain and improve the airports that serve as economic engines, emergency response hubs, and vital transportation links across our state.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

*tracy williams*

Tracy Williams, A.A.E., CAE  
Airport Manager  
City of Bend





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