

Submitter: Dan Bandel  
On Behalf Of: HB2153  
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2153

HOUSE BILL 2153 TESTAMONY March 2025  
Dan Bandel, Airport Manager  
Eastern Oregon Regional Airport at Pendleton

"Good evening, esteemed members of the 83rd legislative assembly. My name is Dan Bandel and I am the Airport Manager for the Eastern Oregon Regional Airport at Pendleton. We are a small regional airport that proudly supports the only Essential Air Service contract in the Pacific Northwest and home to the Pendleton Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Range. I am here to express strong support for HB2153.

This modest three-cent increase in aviation fuel tax is a vital investment in Oregon's aviation future. For airports like ours, HB2153 could offer several economic benefits:

1. Infrastructure Improvements: The additional revenue could be reinvested into upgrading runways, terminals, and other facilities, enhancing the airport's capacity and safety.
2. Job Creation: Infrastructure projects and increased airport activity could generate jobs, both directly at the airport and indirectly in the surrounding community.
3. Boosting Local Economy: Improved airport facilities can attract more flights and passengers, which in turn supports local businesses like hotels, restaurants, and transportation services.
4. Supporting Innovation: For airports with specialized activities, like our UAS Range, the tax revenue could fund advancements in technology and operations, fostering innovation and economic growth.
5. Sustainability: The tax could also support environmentally friendly initiatives, such as transitioning to sustainable aviation fuels or implementing energy-efficient technologies.

HB2153 is more than just a commitment; it is a bold declaration of Oregon's unwavering dedication to leading the nation in aviation innovation and excellence. By passing this bill, we affirm Oregon's place at the forefront of an industry that drives economic growth, fosters cutting-edge technology, and secures a prosperous future for generations to come. Let us seize this opportunity to champion progress and solidify our state as a beacon of leadership in aviation.

Thank you."