



February 9, 2026
Senator Fred Girod, Co-Chair
Representative Rob Nosse, Co-Chair
Members of the Joint Committee on Ways & Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction

Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem Oregon 97301

Dear Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Nosse and Members of the Committee:

As a business owner deeply invested and knowledgeable about aviation and specifically at Salem-Willamette Valley Airport, I'm writing in support of the \$1.35 million McNary Field Resiliency and Emergency Capability with Terminal Master Plan capital funding request.

After a large fire, flood, or earthquake or other natural or unnatural emergency, with the situation today, the Airport could not safely operate to aid in Red Cross, FEMA, or National Guard aircraft landings. No lights, no fuel, no tower. This is an enormous oversight in emergency planning.

Funding as proposed would fix this with a one-time expenditure. Salem-Willamette Valley Airport (McNary Field) is a critical component as a resiliency hub for rescue and recovery in the event of a catastrophic event, and the terminal plan leverages federal funding to support airport services and expansion.

Funding to support the Terminal Master Plan allows leveraging federal funds for terminal expansion capital projects. This funding supports a formal, FAA-approved roadmap for terminal area improvements which includes a new control tower on the east side of the airport as funded by federal infrastructure funds. It will lay the groundwork for the next generation to have a terminal similar in size to Eugene Airport as the population along the busy I-5 corridor grows and becomes more dense.

The success of recent limited Avelo flights demonstrated the viability and possibilities for robust connectivity for our State Capital City, the corporate decision by Avelo to leave the Western states notwithstanding. We look forward to this critical transportation hub, at the junction Oregon's main North/South and East/West highways of I-5 and Highway 22, to grow to its full utilization and potential.

Please recommend and approve funding for these purposes.

Respectfully,

Brent DeHart, CEO, Salem Aviation
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