

Good afternoon, Chairman-Committee Members! Thank you for the opportunity to testify. My name is Jonathan Teichert and I'm here on behalf of the City of Klamath Falls.

Klamath Falls faces a critical transportation gap. A 2022 Mead & Hunt study confirmed strong regional travel demand—over one million annual visits—but no viable air service. Today, residents and businesses must drive 4–5 hours to Portland or other airports, limiting economic growth, tourism, and access to healthcare. Traditional airline service isn't feasible due to seasonality and load factor challenges.

Klamath Collegiate Air offers a right-sized solution: a 9-seat Pilatus PC-12, or similar, aircraft owned by Klamath Community College and leased to Pure Flight, a certified Part 135 operator. This model provides flexible, reliable air service from Klamath Falls to Portland and other hubs without the financial and operational risks of large carriers. It's scalable, cost-effective, and aligned with actual demand patterns.

The benefits are: direct air access reduces travel time, supports business and tourism, improves healthcare connectivity, and strengthens regional resilience. This initiative complements existing transportation options and advances state goals for economic development and rural mobility.

We are requesting \$2 million in state support—\$2 million for aircraft acquisition and \$1 million committed from the City for airport infrastructure and program administration. This is not a profit-driven venture; it's a public service investment that will deliver long-term community and economic benefits. With your support, Klamath Falls can close a decades-old connectivity gap and unlock new opportunities for growth.

Thank You!