

Submitter: Tony Helbling
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3013
February 2, 2025

Via Electronic Mail

House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: AAIA Testimony Opposing HB 3013

Dear Honorable Legislators:

The Aurora Airport Improvement Association urges you to oppose HB 3013.

We are a group of businesses, focused on economic development at Aurora State Airport. It is our goal to grow and operate aviation related businesses safely, efficiently and respectfully of our neighbors.

HB 3013, although appearing to be general in scope, is targeted at the Aurora State Airport and the potential in presents. It targets a future that brings investment resulting in jobs to the State of Oregon. Vital to the continued success is the carefully planned development of the airport area. This bill is designed to stop that investment and potential development. To achieve that end, it will also hurt the future of so many other investments in development all over the State of Oregon.

Aurora Airport is a “General Aviation Airport”. We have Aircraft manufacturing, modification, maintenance, restoration, and aviation supply businesses. We safely conduct flight operations to include air ambulance service, firefighting, power line construction, forestry management, flight training, aerial photo mapping, local, regional and national law enforcement.

According to the Oregon Department of Aviation’s “Oregon Aviation Plan”, the economic impact of the airport to surrounding area is over \$500,000,000. There are over 1500 family wage paying jobs on the privately owned properties directly

associated with the airport. Over \$200,000,000 is invested in hangars, offices, and equipment involved in safe, efficient and respectful operation of aircraft. Tax base generated from the airport accounts for approximately 1/3 of the Aurora Fire District taxing district. A similar substantial tax contribution goes to North Marion School District.

What the airport isn't and will never be is a Commercial Airline Flight Airport. It simply is not possible unless nearly all the developments on the airport were to be torn down, as well as other surrounding developments.

HB 3013 -1 is bad legislation that will hurt not just the airport, but it will hurt development everywhere in Oregon. This legislation is designed to make business investment in Oregon that much harder, if not impossible. We need to make it easier for business to choose Oregon, not harder. Aurora Airport Improvement Association members strongly oppose this legislation, and we urge you to do the same.

Sincerely

Tony Helbling
President
Aurora Airport Improvement Association