

Veliz, Kim

From: Wilhelm, Ladd <lwilhelm@wilsonconst.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 27, 2018 3:11 PM
To: City Recorder
Cc: scottstarr97070@gmail.com
Subject: Public Hearing on Aurora State Airport EXTENSION
Attachments: 20181126161145446.pdf

Kimberly,

Please find my attached letter in support of the Aurora Runway Extension for tonight's meeting. I would like to enter this officially since I am not able to attend in person.

Kindest Regards,

Ladd Wilhelm PE
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"Building from our past, powering the present, with our vision on the future"

November 26, 2018

Mayor Tim Knapp
Wilsonville City Council
29799 SW Town Center Loop E
Wilsonville, OR 97070

Re: Improving Aurora State Airport

Mayor Knapp and Councilors,

I live in Wilsonville at 28722 SW Cascade Loop, and work as a Profession Engineer at Wilson Construction Co. Our company has operations on the airport and I am occasionally on the aircraft that depart and arrive there. The runway extension is important to me and many others at my company.

Extending the runway will improve safety, giving pilots more room to react in the case of emergency or poor weather conditions. Our company operates aircraft in and out of Aurora State Airport and safety is of paramount importance in our company culture. A 6,000' runway is a critical safety improvement. A safety improvement is just that; an improvement, much like the improvements to cars and trucks that assist with our driving and make us safer. This improvement not only makes those who fly in and out of Aurora safer but also those who live and work in the area. The extension will allow a pilot to make a controlled time/altitude sensitive decision and bring an aircraft safely to a stop on the extended runway as opposed to being forced to deal with a mechanical emergency after getting airborne.

Improving the runway has an added benefit of preparing for floods and wind storms as we've had in the past. It will also help prepare for future potential disasters like earthquakes. The airport will be needed to help save lives and support surrounding communities attempting to recover from a disaster.

As a resident who lives directly in the flight path of this airport, I am exposed to the sounds of the aircraft departing and arriving there. Also, having lived in flight paths in larger cities with international airports, the sounds of these small aircraft are barely noticeable and very infrequent. I have never noticed the sounds inside my house. If I'm outside AND there are no leaf blowers or mowers operating you might notice it. Cars, mowers, leaf blowers (even electric ones) are much more common and noticeable than the occasional aircraft flying over. The proposed extension of the runway will be to the south. This will cause the aircraft departing to the north over Wilsonville to be farther away from the residential areas than they currently are. This will reduce the already small aviation noise footprint.

All aircraft operating in and out of Aurora are well within the safety parameters set by the various government agencies holding jurisdiction. I've heard concerns that extending the runway will bring in larger aircraft and much more frequent flights. The largest aircraft that can safely operate out of Aurora is already operating there. It and a few of the other larger aircraft there operate with "restrictions". These restrictions limit the capacities (fewer passengers) and configurations of the current aircraft and, as a result, occasionally result in additional flights. For aircraft larger than those already there to operate out of Aurora, the entire airport, control tower, hangers and even the Hubbard-Portland highway would need to be reconfigured which would be impractical and cost prohibitive, and therefore very improbable.

The Aurora airport is also an economic engine for the City of Wilsonville. For those of us who work there or are associated with operations there, the airport is a key factor in the success of our companies. These companies provide us with family wage paying jobs. We bring our paychecks home to Wilsonville where we live, shop, play and pay taxes.

I live in Wilsonville and I support the extension of the Aurora Airport runway.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Ladd Wilhelm PE." The signature is stylized and cursive.

J. Ladd Wilhelm PE
Wilsonville Resident