

Veliz, Kim

From: Larry Walker <lw@walkercompany.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 27, 2018 1:08 PM
To: City Recorder
Subject: Testimony for tonight's hearing
Attachments: City of Wilsonville Public Hearing.docx

Hello Kim,

Attached is my written testimony for the hearing at City Hall this evening.

Thanks!

Larry Walker

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City of Wilsonville Public Hearing on the Proposed Aurora State Airport Expansion

November 27, 2018

I am a resident of Charbonneau. I hope this public hearing will be one of many meaningful, evidence-based processes that will result in arriving at the truth about the advisability of applying for and potentially utilizing \$37 million of taxpayer money to fund a 1,000 ft. extension to the Aurora State Airport's (ASA) existing 5,000 ft. runway.

I have had an opportunity to participate in discussions with some of the owners of airport operations, as well as residents of Charbonneau, through my involvement on the Charbonneau Country Club's (the Charbonneau homeowners association) Civic Affairs Committee. I believe I have come to have a relatively good grasp of the opinions and objectives of both proponents for airport expansion and opponents of expansion. I believe both "sides" in this issue are well-intentioned in their positions and the reasons for their respective advocacy, and both have clearly-stated, albeit conflicting versions of the "truth" regarding the need for ASA expansion. They unfortunately lack one essential element however, and that is trust in one another.

As I recently told a private developer at the Airport, I value evidence over anecdote, facts over hyperbole, and objectivity over subjectivity. Any decision made about Airport expansion must be grounded in facts and truth.

I am not against needed improvements at the ASA that would result from a broad-ranging and thorough analysis of needs and costs. I am against spending federal taxpayer dollars simply because they are available, as I would be for any other proposed project. I am, however, absolutely for many things:

- I am for ensuring that ASA remains a safe airport for aircraft and airport operators.
- I am for ensuring that aircraft overflights over Charbonneau and other populated areas only occur when safety of the aircraft is an issue, not pilot convenience.
- I am for an accountable Airport governance structure that includes appropriate representation from all areas affected by current and future development at the Airport. This representation should include such entities as Wilsonville, Clackamas County, Marion County, Aurora, Canby, Donald, Woodburn and St. Paul.
- I am for ensuring that the decision-making process, which has significant land use implications, adheres to Oregon Land Use Planning Goal 1, which calls for "the opportunity for citizens to be involved in all phases of the planning process." This goal requires each city and county to have a comprehensive citizen involvement program, and requires local governments to have a committee for citizen involvement to monitor and encourage public participation in planning.

- **I am for** transparency and specificity in understanding the degree to which aircraft operations are “constrained” at ASA, why they are constrained, and whether those constraints can be resolved without a runway expansion.
- **I am for** ensuring that a full environmental impact study is conducted that ensures any airport expansion will have minimal or no negative environmental impacts.
- **I am for** ensuring that appropriate infrastructure is in place at ASA (sewer, water, transportation, etc.) to support future development.
- **I am for** ensuring that any airport expansion will not negatively impact farming and the local area transportation infrastructure.
- **I am for** ensuring that any airport expansion will not have a negative impact on home values in the broad impact area of the ASA.
- **I am for** sustaining and encouraging sensible, supportable economic development that contributes to the Wilsonville and Clackamas County tax bases and provides quality jobs for local residents.

Many questions about the need for and benefits of ASA expansion remain to be answered with factual information. Until those questions are fully considered through a broad, open and inclusive public process that conforms to Goal 1, I cannot at this time recommend support for ASA runway expansion.

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