

Testimony before the Wilsonville City Council Regarding the Aurora Airport. 11/27/2018

Good evening, my name is Mike Iverson. My son Ryan and I own Aurora Farms, a 200 acre fresh market vegetable farm south of the river, on both sides of the Aurora Airport. We employ roughly 25 people and have been operating for nearly 40 years now. Neighboring farms are seed producers, wholesale nurseries, filbert producers, as well as other fresh and process vegetable growers. This area has arguably some of the best suited soil types, water supplies and microclimates for the fore mentioned cropping systems. Importantly, we farmers still manage to maintain good relations with our non-farming neighbors and remain the highest, best use of these lands.

Please allow me to simply outline a few concerns regarding this somewhat mysterious airport expansion plan. First, we all are aware of the near gridlock situations on the roads around the airport. Ehlen, Arndt and Airport roads are always busy 7am-7pm and especially during rush hours! Keil Road also runs east-west and will be closed to thru traffic with a 1000 foot runway extension. This closure directly affects our farm that requires multiple daily trips back and forth between operations, thus necessitating we travel 3 times farther around the airport. Of note, there are more vehicles using Keil road than there are planes using the runway and the road is already paid for,

including the \$3 million left turn lanes on Hwy 551 and Keil road. That improvement will become just another waste of taxpayer money. It seems that forcing farm operations and equipment onto already overburdened roadways ~~is~~ simply unwise and unsafe.

Additional concerns are the lack of airport area governance, the now famous sewer and water questions and the potentially serious environmental problems with the non-addressed airport water runoff to the area creeks and rivers. Together, with the dubious and inflated future employment claims within the new proposed airport confines and of course the highly questionable “constrained operations” excuse to declare a cargo jet capable runway a necessity. The entire proposition smells foul. The Marion County Commissioners, two of whom took significant airport promoter contributions just recently, should be ashamed of their lack of concern, transparency and leadership to allow this albatross of an airport plan to hang around our necks here in the North Willamette Valley.

The vaunted Oregon land use system is being gamed and public process neglected on several fronts.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Michael Brown". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

