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Mayor Tim Knapp & Wilsonville City Council
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PLEASE SUPPORT THE AURORA AIRPORT RUNWAY EXTENSION & FAA GRANT APPLICATION!!!

My name is Ted Millar.

I own a home in Charbonneau and have been an active part of the Wilsonville and surrounding area business community since 1958, long before many of you probably moved here.

I first started my construction company in Clackamas County in 1958, then located our office for several years in the previous Citizens Bank building that we originally built for them at the Wilsonville South interchange. We now have our offices & hangar located at the Aurora State Airport.

My firm has built & owned numerous buildings in Wilsonville & the surrounding area starting back when we had to beg companies to locate here because it was too far out from Portland & we didn't have enough housing or support facilities to attract them. My firm was an active member of the Associated General Contractors when AGC decided to locate their headquarters at the North Wilsonville Interchange because a study showed that Wilsonville was the exact center of Oregon's construction workforce.

I am on the Wilsonville Chamber Board and still actively work to bring quality businesses and jobs to Wilsonville.

As you may know, when Wilsonville is trying to attract a major employer to the area, the prospects all say the main reasons for locating here are:

- a. It is close to the biggest metropolitan area in Oregon,
- b. It is on a major interstate freeway
- c. It is adjacent to a Full-Service Business Airport that can support their corporate aircraft operations!!!

The Aurora Airport is a vital community support facility just like a hospital, library, school or a fire station.

Unlike all Port and City owned airports that keep all of the revenue from the airport at the airport, ALL of the building improvements on the Aurora State Airport have been built and are owned by private enterprise so the Aurora Airport properties pay property taxes into the General Fund on over \$150 Million worth of value while taking very little back.

The Runway, Taxiway, Control tower & Instrument landing systems costs are paid for out of the National Airport Improvement funds collected from Aircraft User Fee Fuel Taxes **NOT** from the general fund or city tax dollars.

Three Main Focus points & benefits to Wilsonville at the Aurora Airport are SAFETY, JOBS and EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS.

1. SAFETY:
 - a. The airport businesses are extremely safety conscious & the 1,000 foot extension to the South will make the airport even safer than it already is!!
 - b. If our Wilsonville Business owners and /or their families and employees need to land on a dark, stormy, rainy or icy night, the extra safety of the longer runway will be immeasurable.
2. JOBS:
 - a. The airport has over 1300 living wage jobs and most of the employees live in Wilsonville and the surrounding areas
 - b. According to a recent State study this airport provides \$ 2.3 Billion dollars of economic development impact with most of the benefit going to Wilsonville & Clackamas County.
 - c. The Airport businesses & their employees and guests rent several thousand room nights a year from the local motels, buy thousands of meals a year, bank in the local banks, buy Millions of dollars of equipment & supplies from the service stations, grocery stores, auto parts, hardware, car washes. car dealerships and other retailers & suppliers.
 - d. Ask your businesses & they will all agree a major portion of their business comes from the airport and its employees.
3. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS:
 - a. The airport was originally established in 1942 as an emergency military airport in case of bombing of coast airports by the Japanese.
 - b. A Study by the FAA shows that the Aurora Airport is one of 83 Non-Commercial Service Airports in the USA that are designated as having National significance to the National Transportation System.
 - c. The TSA is in the process of upgrading the Aurora Airport from a tier-3 airport to a Tier-2 Airport for National Emergency Preparedness which will free up federal dollars to rebuild local losses.
 - d. Aurora Airport based Life Flight Network, Civil Air Patrol, Clackamas County Sherriff's department, Columbia Helicopters, Helicopter Transport Services (HTS), Winco and Wilson Construction are already actively involved in emergency preparedness.
 - e. As an example: When California had the recent fires break out, Columbia & HTS immediately dispatched 9 helicopters to fight those fires, Wilson Construction dispatched over 50 people & equipment to disconnect power lines ahead of the fire & then re-connect power lines after the fires. Life Flight dispatches helicopters and airplanes for emergencies 24 hours a day 365 days a year.

Mayor Knapp & City Councilors, instead of fighting the Aurora Airport Improvements, which will cost you nothing.

I would like to invite you all to the Airport to personally view the airport facilities and better understand it's benefits to the City of Wilsonville.

PLEASE JOIN US along with Charbonneau in formally establishing the Aurora Airport as an Emergency Preparedness Center for the City of Wilsonville and the surrounding area in case of major floods, fires, windstorms or a major catastrophic earthquake and potential bridge failures.

Thank You,



Ted Millar