

LUCAS Sarah

From: Mary Closson <closson.marye@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 1, 2022 3:31 PM
To: LUCAS Sarah
Subject: Public Comment - Aurora State Airport

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March 1, 2022

Betty Stansbury
Director
Oregon Department of Aviation
3040 25th Street SE
Salem, OR 97302

Dear Ms. Stansbury:

I've been a Wilsonville resident since 2010 and an Oregon resident since 1990. I'm writing today because I'm deeply concerned about the proposed expansion of the Aurora **State** Airport. I bolded the word "State" because I'm aware that my tax dollars support the Aurora State Airport and the ADA. Over the past few years, I have made it a priority to understand the history of this airport and the efforts that have taken place to expand it, specifically by lengthening the main runway, but also through placing more commercial buildings in and around the airport.

Included in my research is the ruling given by the Oregon Court of Appeals (June 16, 2021) which stated that your organization misapplied state land-use laws in approving the contentious 2012 Aurora State Airport Master Plan. I support the City of Wilsonville and the City of Aurora's stance on the Aurora State Airport Master Plan.

I am against the expansion of this airport (runway expansion, additional buildings on the land surrounding the airport, etc.) based on my awareness of infrastructure limitations (water/sewer among them), environmental impacts and increased traffic congestion.

In terms of environmental impacts, I support the Friends of French Prairie and their work to preserve the valuable rich farmlands that would be severely impacted as a result of airport expansion. I also support the many residents of Charbonneau, Aurora and Wilsonville (north of the river), who have voiced concerns about the severe noise impacts from increasing jet and airplane traffic. Along with the noise, we are troubled by the health issues resulting from emissions from aircraft in the air and at ground level.

I have also been made aware of increased traffic on I-5 and the roads in and around Aurora, Wilsonville, Charbonneau and Canby should this airport be expanded. I have read reports that document a surge in traffic accidents and related injuries/fatalities as a result of the current high

volume of traffic on I-5 and on the roads connecting I-5 and the airport. We already have a major problem with the Boone Bridge/I-5 bottleneck and it would surely be made worse should the airport be allowed to expand.

It is also my understanding that the Salem Municipal Airport is open to expansion that would include more small jet traffic. With its close proximity to Wilsonville/Charbonneau, Aurora and Canby, why is your agency not giving more attention to the Salem Municipal Airport?

We residents/taxpayers deserve to live in communities that are safe from airport pollution and from the hazards of increased traffic on our already burdened roads and freeways. We also need to recognize and place a priority on the unique agricultural value of the farmland surrounding the Aurora State Airport. I urge you to focus your time and attention on the win/win scenario offered by expanding services at the Salem Municipal Airport.

Sincerely,

Mary Closson
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