



Trent Wright  
Director of Government Relations  
Umpqua Bank  
225 N. 9<sup>th</sup> St., Ste. 510  
Boise, ID 93702  
[trentwright@umpquabank.com](mailto:trentwright@umpquabank.com)  
208 926-6336

12.23.24

Alex Thomas  
Planning and Programs Manager  
Oregon Department of Aviation  
3040 25th Street SE  
Salem, OR 97302

Dear Mr. Thomas,

Subject: Strong Opposition to the "Preferred Alternative" in the Aurora State Airport Master Plan

I am writing on behalf of Umpqua Bank to express our strong opposition to the "preferred alternative" proposed in the Aurora State Airport Master Plan. As a key stakeholder with ongoing investments in the airport we have significant concerns regarding the potential impacts of this plan on our operations and the broader economic environment.

The proposed 500-foot extension is inadequate to meet the needs of general aviation aircraft. This limitation could hinder the airport's ability to attract and accommodate a diverse range of aviation activities, ultimately affecting its economic viability. Additionally, the inclusion of a parallel taxi lane and a vehicle service road, which are not FAA requirements, appears to be an unjustified measure primarily aimed at property acquisition. This approach raises serious concerns about the fairness and necessity of such expansions.

The potential condemnation of properties, with compensation based on tax roll values rather than market value, is deeply troubling. This method fails to account for the true economic impact on property owners and does not cover costs related to business dislocation or disruption. The airport is a significant economic asset, contributing to job creation and local development. The current approach could lead to extensive legal battles over property rights and the legitimacy of the master plan, which the state cannot



afford. Such litigation would create an environment of uncertainty, negatively impacting ongoing and future investments.

We advocate for a phased approach to extend the runway, which would address immediate needs without unnecessary property condemnation. This strategy would allow for incremental development, ensuring that the airport can grow sustainably. We urge the Oregon Department of Aviation to engage in mediation through Oregon Solutions to facilitate open discussions and build consensus among all stakeholders. This process would help address concerns and find mutually beneficial solutions. It is crucial to improve public involvement and transparency in the planning process. Ensuring that all stakeholders have a voice and that their concerns are adequately addressed will foster a more collaborative and supportive environment.

Umpqua Bank remains committed to supporting the development of Aurora State Airport in a manner that balances economic growth with the rights and interests of all stakeholders. We strongly urge the Oregon Department of Aviation to reconsider the "preferred alternative" and adopt a more inclusive and sustainable approach to the airport's master plan.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your response and are willing to engage in further discussions to find a viable path forward.

Sincerely,

Trent Wright  
Umpqua Bank