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**Re: Aurora State Airport Master Plan Website Comments - Chris Gage**

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**From** Chris Gage <noreply@jotform.com>

**Date** Wed 2025-01-29 10:08 AM

**To** JLA Tech Support <tech@jla.us.com>; Jen Winslow <Jen.winslow@jla.us.com>; Ashley Balsom <ashley.balsom@jla.us.com>; Brandy Steffen <brandy.steffen@jla.us.com>

 **Aurora State Airport Master Plan Website Comments**

**Name** Chris Gage

**Comments or questions?** Legal Opposition to Aurora State Airport Master Plan Expansion

Submitted to: Oregon Department of Aviation  
Date: 1/29/2025

Subject: Formal Objection to the Proposed Westward Expansion of Aurora State Airport Master Plan

I. Introduction We the resident of the community submit this formal opposition to the proposed westward expansion of the Aurora State Airport as outlined in the Master Plan. This proposal raises significant concerns regarding adverse impacts on the local community, environmental sustainability, economic viability, and legal compliance. We urge the responsible authorities to reconsider this expansion and explore alternative solutions that do not compromise the well-being of our residents.

II. Community Disruption and Quality of Life  
The proposed expansion threatens to disrupt the surrounding residential neighborhoods, small businesses, and agricultural lands in the following ways:

Increased Noise Pollution: Expanding the airport will result in significantly increased aircraft traffic, generating noise pollution that

will negatively affect residents' quality of life, particularly for families, the elderly, and individuals with health conditions sensitive to noise exposure.

#### Traffic Congestion and Safety Risks:

Expansion-related construction and increased airport operations will exacerbate existing traffic congestion on surrounding roads, creating additional safety hazards for motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians.

Property Devaluation: The expansion may reduce property values in the affected areas due to heightened noise levels, increased traffic, and decreased residential desirability.

III. Environmental Concerns The expansion poses serious environmental risks that conflict with Oregon's land use and environmental protection policies, including:

#### Impact on Farmland and Natural Habitats:

The proposed expansion encroaches on agricultural lands and environmentally sensitive areas, threatening local ecosystems and wildlife habitats.

Air and Water Pollution: Increased aviation activity will lead to higher emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants, negatively impacting air quality. Additionally, fuel runoff and chemical contaminants pose risks to local water supplies.

#### Violation of Statewide Land Use Goals:

Oregon's land use planning system prioritizes the preservation of agricultural land and open spaces. The proposed expansion directly contradicts these principles by repurposing rural land for aviation-related development.

#### IV. Economic and Financial Concerns

Unjustified Cost to Taxpayers: The expansion requires substantial public investment, yet the projected economic benefits remain uncertain. There is no clear evidence that the

expansion will generate sufficient revenue to justify the expenditure.

## V. Legal and Procedural Issues

### Lack of Comprehensive Community

Consultation: The planning process has not adequately engaged local residents and stakeholders in meaningful discussions about the expansion's consequences.

### Potential Violations of Zoning and Land Use

Regulations: Expanding the airport into residential and agricultural zones may violate existing land use laws and local zoning ordinances.

### Noncompliance with Federal and State

Environmental Regulations: The project must undergo rigorous environmental impact assessments under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Oregon's environmental protection laws before approval.

## VI. Conclusion and Request for Action

Given these significant concerns, we strongly urge the appropriate authorities to:

Halt the approval process for the westward expansion of the Aurora State Airport.

Conduct a comprehensive environmental and economic impact study with full public transparency.

Explore alternative solutions that minimize disruption to the community while addressing aviation needs and also involve the community.

Facilitate open public hearings and community engagement to ensure all voices are heard before any further planning decisions are made.

The Aurora community stands firm in its opposition to this expansion and requests that decision-makers prioritize the health,

safety, and well-being of local residents over corporate or commercial interests.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Gage representing the Aurora Community

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If you would like a response, please tell us the best way to contact you:

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Phone

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