



FOR THE LOVE of CARS

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Mayor Tim Knapp & The Wilsonville City Council:
City of Wilsonville Oregon
29799 SW Town Center Loop E
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Honorable Mayor Tim Knapp & The Wilsonville City Council:

Today I was asked to write a letter in support of the move to extend the runway at the **Wes Lematta Field** at Aurora State Airport. As a pilot who has accessed the airport for many years for business use I agreed to do so. As is customary when supporting an issue, I asked to have the "talking points" e mailed to me so that I could frame them for you in my letter. Simply put, the runway extension will:

- Make for safer operations in all weather conditions which otherwise prevent several hundred flights each year putting constraints on business operations in the area
- Will not result in bigger or louder jets or increased commercial traffic
- This plan has not been "covert" in any way and has been in the works since 1976

However, as one who has conducted business in the City of Wilsonville and has enjoyed a wonderful relationship with both the people of the City as well as its governing body, I am a bit puzzled as to why the Office of the Mayor or City Council would oppose such a positive move favoring the citizens of this wonderful City? I thought to look online to learn about similar projects and how other municipalities have reacted to projects of this nature to see if Wilsonville is unique in its opposition of such an endeavor. What I found was both interesting, and quite frankly, make the argument in favor of the runway extension far better than I. Following are some quotes from articles that I found online:

- "Mayor says bigger, better airport crucial to local economy" – this is from an article written in the 2015 Albuquerque Journal. The article continues to say "The mayor has often mentioned the airport as being a key component to the city's effort to increase economic development . . . "
- "Mayor to focus on airport, roads" this from the Greensburg Daily News in Indiana on Jan 4, 2014. "Greensburg Mayor Gary Herbert said he would push hard this year to make progress on economic development initiatives, especially the \$9.9 million

construction of Veteran's Way and the \$16 million expansion of the Greensburg Municipal Airport. Herbert said Thursday afternoon that his goals for 2014 relate primarily to helping existing businesses, attracting new business, expanding the tax base and bringing new jobs to the community. The airport expansion, which would include expanding the runway to 5,405 feet, up from 3,600 feet today, would give local businesses better options for shipping their products and receiving raw materials, he said."

- And just last month from the Santa Cruz Sentinel in California the headline reads "Mayor's message: Planning pays off for airport." The article went on to say the following "I have been fortunate to be a resident of a community and city where I've also had the opportunity to serve and hold various public offices for more than 30 years. During that time, I've had the honor of actually living near one of the most valued "man-made" resources within the city of Watsonville, Santa Cruz County and California Central Coast. That resource is Watsonville Municipal Airport, the only airport within Santa Cruz County." The article went on to say "These improvements translate into real economic outputs ranging from airport services and concessions to business development and with associated employment opportunities coming to Watsonville. As mayor it is encouraging to know the FAA and Caltrans recognize investing in KWWI is a commitment to better serve the flying public. As a resident it is encouraging to know a valued resource will be better positioned to bring economic opportunities to our City."

I believe the point is clear; a nearby safe, useful and well operated airport is critical to the health and wellbeing of the economy for any city. I was pleased to learn that the neighboring cities of Woodburn and Canby are in full support of this improvement at the airport as well.

I'll sign off by quoting one of the salient lines I came across while looking into this issue. "It's true a mile of highway will take you one mile, but a mile of runway will take you anywhere."

I ask the Mayor's office and City Council reconsider their opposition to this important issue.

Respectfully,



Brad E. Tonkin
President
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