

**WILSON**  
CONSTRUCTION CO

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November 27, 2018

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Mayor Tim Knapp  
Wilsonville City Council  
29799 SW Town Center Loop E  
Wilsonville, OR 97070

**Re: Support Aurora State Airport Runway Extension**

Mayor Knapp and Councilors,

Wilson Construction Company's flight department has been based at Aurora Airport for nearly 20 years. There are three reasons you should support the runway extension; **1. Safety**, 2. Economic impact to Wilsonville and 3. Disaster Relief.

Wilson Construction builds power lines all over the United States to include Alaska and Hawaii. We use our three airplanes like buses moving; linemen, mechanics, truck drivers, environmentalists, safety inspectors, project managers – basically, the rank and file of our company all over for; work on projects, safety inspections, and meetings with customers. Sometimes we fly only critical parts out to a crew – to get the power back on after a storm.

**Safety is absolutely the most important priority in our company**, whether working on high voltage lines, stacking boxes in the office, fixing a bulldozer or flying in bad weather. We want everyone to go home safe. To that end, we've raised our safety culture to a new level as a direct result of the example set by aviation, focusing on human factors and ensuring our work is inside well defined procedures and wide margins. This is why the extension is so important to us. Having a **runway long enough to take off while still having enough length to stop in the event of an aborted takeoff** allows us to operate inside a wider, safer margin. On return, that same **longer runway gives us a bigger margin to get a landing stopped in case of rain, snow or ice**. Safety is the priority.

Every year, we average just over 600 employees all over the country. 20 of those are based at Aurora. These and about 80 in our Canby office and 30 in our Woodburn shop, put well over \$1,000,000 directly into Wilsonville through personal and corporate purchasing.

The cities of Wilsonville, Canby, and Woodburn, are trying to attract companies that provide family wage paying jobs. Many of the companies you hope to attract operate corporate aircraft. When those companies see the extended runway, they will bring those jobs. Talk to your county and state economic development staff, they will confirm a direct correlation between airport infrastructure and the desirability to move a company.


Wilson Construction responds to disaster related black-outs all over the country. From Aurora, our airplanes move us directly to the area of need. Aurora Airport is home to numerous other companies that also respond to large disasters and small emergencies. In that light, we need to look hard at improving the airport to be ready for a national or local event. The Governor's office sees this value as applied to a local disaster and is looking at upgrading the airport from a Tier 3 to a Tier 2. This would raise the level of effort to restore Aurora after a disaster.

**I strongly encourage you to consider the benefits of safety, because it's our lives in those airplanes.** I strongly encourage you to consider the direct economic impact to your Wilsonville constituents. I strongly encourage you to think about how we can all be ready to help our neighbors, near and far, when they need us.

I strongly encourage you to support the extension of the Aurora Airport Runway.

I welcome your questions.

Sincerely



Tony Helbing  
Logistics Manager  
Wilson Construction

Cc; Don Wilson  
Stacy Wilson  
Gabriel Miller