

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

March 7, 2014

Michael P. Huerta
Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Mr. Huerta:

We request that you include Aurora Airport as a new start operation in the Federal Contract Tower (FCT) Program.


As you may know, the Aurora Airport is Oregon's fourth busiest airport with over 350 based aircraft and 90,000 flight operations per year. Located between Portland and Salem, this airport serves as an important regional hub for goods and passengers. This airport is important to regional growth but requires a control tower to enhance public and aircraft safety as well as to promote greater economic opportunities. Because Aurora Airport is so close to the cities of Aurora and Wilsonville, a tower would also help address local noise concerns through improved traffic control.

In 2011, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) entered into an agreement with the Oregon Department of Aviation to staff a tower under the FCT Program. The State of Oregon has dedicated funding to construct a tower, which will be completed by October 2014. After securing this funding, however, the ODA received notification late last year that the Contract Tower Program was closed to new participants.

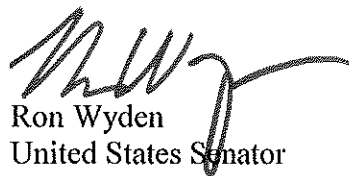
We urge you to honor the original agreement and ensure that staffing is available when this tower is complete. For the safety of our constituents, we encourage you to move swiftly to provide assurances to ODA that once a tower is constructed, Aurora Airport will be included in the Federal Contract Tower Program.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter, and we look forward to working with you. Should you have any questions, please contact Katie Gauthier in Senator Merkley's Salem office at (503) 362-8102, Fritz Graham in Senator Wyden's Salem office at (503) 589-4555, or Trevor Sleeman in Congressman Schrader's office at (503) 588-4054.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress



Greg Walden
Member of Congress