

217 Main Street PO Box 168 Molalla, OR 97038 Phone: 503.829.2301

**The Aurora Law Office**  
 21028 Hwy. 99E, Aurora  
 www.aurora-law.com  
 503-678-5275 • 1-800-618-3328

ATTORNEY JOHANNA COHEN      ATTORNEY BRENDAN ENRIGHT

News   [Commentary](#)   [Sports](#)   [Milestones](#)   [Contact/About Us](#)   [Classifieds](#)   [Subscriptions](#)   [Advertising](#)   [Photos/Videos](#)

News Alerts

[Local News](#)   [News Briefs](#)   [Business](#)   [Correspondents](#)   [The Dish](#)   [Police/Fire logs](#)   [What's Up](#)   [Submit 'What's Up'](#)   [Share News Tip](#)

Wednesday, April 27, 2011 Mostly Cloudy, 53° F

[\[ sign in \]](#)

## Urban Renewal for rural airports lifts off despite opposition

By: [Patrick Johnson](#)

Published: 4/26/2011 4:54:44 PM

SALEM — A controversial bill that would allow urban renewal districts around rural airports lifted off last week, but whether it takes flight is yet to be seen.

Senate Bill 904 directs the Oregon Business Development Department to establish a program that would allow rural airports to create airport urban renewal districts that could capture up to 50 percent of the increase in property taxes when new development or expansion takes place that increases property value. That additional revenue would then be taken, and instead of going to schools, counties, fire districts and other taxing districts, would be funneled into brick-and-mortar projects on the airport.

Locally, it affects Aurora State Airport, Mulino Airport, Lenhardt Airpark and Sportsman Airpark in Newberg.

The Senate Business, Transportation and Economic Development Committee passed the bill with a do-pass recommendation to the Senate Finance Committee with a 5-to-1 vote. Sen. Fred Girod (R-Stayton, Molalla) was the only dissenting vote. He said the bill would do too much harm to small taxing districts that face compression under Ballot Measure 5.

"I sympathize for the airports and I know they need money, I just don't think this is the vehicle to do it," Girod said during the work session.

Senators Lee Beyers (D-Springfield) and Bruce Starr (R-Hillsboro) both said they voted for the bill because it has a provision in which all local taxing districts have to agree before any new airport urban renewal district is formed.

"The reason I am supporting this one, is because it has a provision, that in order to enact this you have to have the agreement of all the local government, which is sort of a 'good luck with that,'" Beyers said.

State officials said the bill will have an approximately \$220,000 impact on the state budget if the bill is passed.

The bill moved on despite opposition from several urban renewal stakeholders, including the Oregon Special Districts Association, the Association of Oregon Redevelopment Agencies and League of Oregon Cities. During the last legislative session an agreement was struck between the groups to limit the number of URD related legislation this session.

### Aurora continues to oppose bill

Both the city of Aurora and the Aurora Rural Fire Protection District have voiced their opposition to the bill.

Most Read   Most Comments

- [Local Easter egg hunts planned for Saturday](#)
- [Colton teen recovering from flying rock injury](#)
- [Oregon Impact visits MHS with life-like crash scene](#)
- [Many local positions at stake in upcoming May election](#)
- [City seeks suggestions for using urban renewal funds](#)

(last 7 days)

**Buy new & sports PHOTOS**

[CLICK HERE](#)

### Twitter Updates

School board votes to keep middle school open, elementary music and other teaching positions lost in cuts: <http://bit.ly/hnsUor> 12 days ago

Police hope arrest of suspected drug dealer will curtail Molalla's heroin problem: <http://bit.ly/eniqIA> 13 days ago

Police investigating fatal wreck on Hwy 213 near Mulino: <http://bit.ly/gpwKYd> 16 days ago

[Follow us on Twitter!](#)

Aurora mayor James Meirow submitted a letter to the committee, outlining the issues with the bill and suggesting some amendments – which were not made.

In his letter, he said that if the Aurora State Airport is annexed into Aurora it will “remove the need for the Aurora State Airport to establish a separate taxing district to meet infrastructure needs.”

Greg Leo, an Aurora Rural Fire Protection District board member and long-time lobbyist in Salem, said officials from the district have visited with all of the members of the Senate Finance and Revenue Committee last week and hope they can keep the bill from getting a hearing.

Sen. Ginny Burdick (D-Portland) is the chairwoman of the Finance and Revenue Committee. Her office staff said late last week the bill has not yet been scheduled.

“Normally if there isn’t support in the committee it won’t get a hearing,” Leo said.

For the bill to move forward, it would have to pass out of the finance committee to the floor of the Senate, then it would be assigned a committee in the House of Representatives and have to pass out of that committee for a vote on the House floor.

“We are watching this one closely,” he said.

Ted Millar, owner of Southend Airpark at the north end of the Aurora State Airport and one of the advocates for the bill, did not return phone calls by press time.

Share | Email



(log in to rate)

### Comments

We welcome comments from registered users. Comments are solely the responsibility of those who post them; their viewpoints are not endorsed by the Molalla Pioneer and Molalla Pioneer .com. [\(read more\)](#)

no comments have been added

[Sign In](#) or [Register](#) to Add Comment

Get  
Deere Season  
DISCOUNTS,  
going on now!

Visit  
[FisherFarmandLawn.com](http://FisherFarmandLawn.com) >



**Fisher**  
FARM & LAWN

 JOHN DEERE

**Special Sections**  
Molalla Pioneer

 Follow  
Molalla Pioneer  
on Facebook

Sections [News](#) / [Education](#) / [Sports](#) / [Commentary](#) / [Classifieds](#)  
MolallaPioneer.com [Archives](#) / [About the Pioneer](#) / [Contact Us](#) / [Privacy Policy](#) / [Commenting Policy](#) / [RSS Feeds](#)  
Services [Subscriptions](#) / [Advertising](#) / [Place Classified Ad](#)

All contents of this site are ©Copyright 2001 - 2011 Eagle Newspapers Inc. All rights reserved.

Powered by: [Public Aware](#)