



# Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor



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Aug 13, 2012

The Honorable Senator Peter Courtney, Co-Chair  
The Honorable Representative Bruce Hanna, Co-Chair  
The Honorable Representative Arnie Roblan, Co-Chair  
State Emergency Board  
900 Court Street NE  
H-178 State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301-4048

Dear Co-Chairpersons:

### **Nature of the Request:**

I respectfully request to appear before the September Emergency Board to request retroactive authorization and limitation to accept Federal funds via an Other Transaction Agreement” (OTA) for the purpose of providing funds for the Oregon Department of Aviation to purchase, install, house and maintain Air Traffic Control Equipment for the Air Traffic Control Tower (to be built) at Aurora State Airport.

**Source of the funding:** Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). This is end of the Federal Fiscal Year “sweep money” offered to The Department of Aviation on short notice and must be obligated immediately or it is swept and obligated for other projects. The OTA was sent to ODA on the 9<sup>th</sup> of August and was asked to be returned signed as soon as possible or risk loss of funds.

**Amount Requested:** \$614,000

**Purpose of the funds:** Purchase, install, house and maintain Air Traffic Control Equipment for the (in design phase) Air Traffic Control Tower (ATCT) at Aurora State Airport.

**Application Deadline:** 10 August 2012

**State Match Requirement:** None

**Impact if not received:** Tower design will be amended to include value of equipment available through this OTA funding into a \$2.64 Million ConnectOregon III grant for construction of the ATCT previously authorized by the Legislature. ATCT design will be adjusted to reflect a tower height for existing runway length of 5,000 feet vice an Airport Master Plan proposal to extend the runway by 1,000 feet in the future as FAA funding becomes available. Future extension of the runway will then require additional funds to reconstruct the ATCT to provide sufficient visual sightlines for the runway extension.

**Additional FTE Required:** None, ATCT will be staffed by FAA funded Contract Air Traffic Controllers.

**How the funds supports Agency Mission and Goals:** This OTA will provide Air Traffic Control Equipment that enables the Aurora State Airport to design and build the ATCT to future growth standards vice current runway length. The Air Traffic Control Tower is an essential safety feature at one of Oregon's busiest airports with over 85,000 annual operations and 350 based aircraft. The Air Traffic Control Tower's primary function is to control aircraft traffic into and out of the airport to avoid midair collisions. Secondly, the air traffic controllers in the tower will help direct traffic to avoid noise sensitive areas, provide assistance to pilots on weather, provide air traffic control liaison with National Airspace air traffic controllers and filing of flight plans.

**Agency Action:**

Department of Aviation is requesting retroactive approval to receive \$614,000 as an Other Transaction Agreement with the FAA.

**Action Requested:**

I respectfully request retroactive approval of ODA's request.

**Legislation Affected:**

None

Mitchell T. Swecker  
Director