



September 17, 2026

Oregon Department of Aviation Board
3040 25th Street SE
Salem, OR 97302

Dear Chair and Members of the Oregon Department of Aviation Board:

I am writing to urge the Board to preserve the \$1.375 million in State Owned Airports Reserve funding approved in April 2026 for the Pacific City State Airport.

The planned work addresses longstanding infrastructure and safety needs, including repair of the airport's drainage system, construction of an access road for emergency vehicles, and improvements to the aircraft parking area. These needs do not disappear because the Oregon Department of Aviation and Tillamook County remain in disagreement over airport protection-zone requirements.

In fact, withholding safety-related improvements because the airport is considered encroached appears counterproductive. If ODAV believes conditions surrounding the airport raise safety concerns, delaying drainage repairs, emergency access, and aircraft parking improvements will not reduce those concerns. The land-use dispute and the airport's immediate infrastructure needs should be addressed on parallel tracks rather than making one contingent upon resolution of the other.

The Pacific City State Airport is a state-owned public asset that supports emergency access, transportation, tourism, and the local economy. Since 2018, the Friends of Pacific City State Airport has maintained a public-private partnership with ODAV and contributed significant volunteer labor, private fundraising, equipment, and grant support to the facility. That partnership has reduced the State's maintenance burden and demonstrated substantial community commitment to the airport.

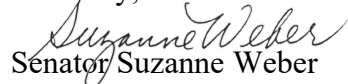
I am also concerned about the timing. The airport's Tillamook County floodplain permit reportedly expires on October 10, 2027. Further delay could jeopardize the ability to complete the approved work, increase project costs, or require the State to repeat portions of the permitting process.

The disagreement concerning the historically recognized 100-foot setback and the State's current 125-foot airport protection standard deserves a serious and focused resolution. I encourage ODAV leadership, Tillamook County, affected property owners, and community representatives to establish a defined process for resolving that issue. My office is willing to assist with those discussions and to consider whether narrowly tailored legislation is necessary if an administrative solution cannot be reached.

I respectfully request that the Board select the option that continues the full \$1.375 million commitment to the Pacific City State Airport while ODAV and Tillamook County continue working toward an appropriate land-use resolution. The airport should not lose previously approved safety and infrastructure funding because two public bodies have not yet resolved a separate regulatory disagreement.

Thank you for your consideration and your service to Oregon's aviation system.

Sincerely,


Senator Suzanne Weber
Senate District 16