Name	Linda Schellenberg
Group/Organization	Self
Address	[redacted] Wilsonville, OR 97070
Email	[redacted]
Phone	[redacted]
Public Comment Topic	Airport Master Plan

Public Comment

I am a resident of Wilsonville's Charbonneau District and oppose the Airport Master Plan for Aurora State Airport for the following reasons.

• The added runway length will enable larger jets to fly overhead, when the noise is already a nuisance that interferes with our quality of life, and will negatively impact our property value.

• Rezoning farmland to non-farming use is not in the best interest of the region. French Prairie has some of the finest agricultural soil in the nation. I believe in former Governor Tom McCall's vision of preventing urban sprawl and respecting our state's valuable farmland. I fear changing land use around the airport is a slippery slope. Where's it stop?

• More large jets overhead means more noise pollution, greater risk of accidents, and more surface traffic on already overcrowded roadways. It also means that the quality of life and property values in Charbonneau will decline.

• It is unreasonable to expand a constrained airport to accommodate larger jets when there are four jet airports within 20 miles (less than 10 minutes by air) that already have full aviation services, passenger facilities, safety equipment, taxiways, and long asphalt runways.

• It is not good use of public funds to spend $185 million dollars, largely coming from fees paid by airline passengers, at a constrained airport to serve a small, affluent, elite market. Investing this sum this way is an inadequate return on investment. With funds that can be put to better use elsewhere.

• The Aurora Airport is unsuited as a commercial drone hub due to it's vicinity to numerous populated communities that would be greatly disturbed by the noise nuisance and safety risks it causes. Wilsonville and Aurora neighborhoods will be strongly opposed to such activity.

• The Aurora Airport is well located, along with an infrastructure of operators, as an ideal disaster & emergency preparedness center for the region. Spending funds on this serves tens of thousands of people, not a handful of jet-setters. It also is a better use of scarce transportation resources.

• The constrained nature of the Aurora Airport is better suited for small-medium aircraft, which is its history and purpose until noncompliant flights caused larger aircraft to use it. Noncompliant usage beyond its B-II category should not be a reason to expand the airport to accommodate larger aircraft. Where will expansion

stop when even larger jets then use it?

• Flight data doesn't support expanding the airport to accommodate larger jets when air traffic has not grown, nor met the forecasts in the plan. 90% of that air traffic is category B-II aircraft, not business jets. Keeping the airport as it is, committing to being safer, upgrading sanitation, and supporting local jobs is more positive for the area than bringing in air traffic that doesn't contribute its fair share.

• Atlantic Aviation at the south end of the Aurora Airport is owned by one of the largest private equity firms in the world. Those owners state that scale matters in their business of private aviation. Scale means expansion, bigger. They state further that their business model 'is a pure-play infrastructure bet on private aviation expansion with continued deliveries of new business, larger jets, and growth in flight activity, fuel volumes, existing airfield development, and revamped hangars as potential sources of expansion.' None of that benefits the communities surrounding the Aurora Airport. All of these private aviation activities are better placed at existing McMinnville, Hillsboro, Salem, or Troutdale airports. Fixed base operators like Atlantic are links in a high-end private aircraft ecosystem that has no place in the rural community between Aurora and Wilsonville.

• The reason Aurora Airport was accommodating noncompliant, larger jets is one: they sell fuel for less than other airports; and two: because wealthy, out-of-state owners of multi-million dollar private jets get a sizable tax break using this airport. None of this benefits our communities. The more large jets that land and take-off, the lower our quality of life and property values decline.

Thank you,
Linda Schellenberg
27 year resident of Charbonneau
[redacted]
Wilsonville, OR 97070

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