

December 12, 2007

Dear Commissioners Milne, Brentano and Carlson;

The growth and development of the Aurora Airport is a major issue of concern to residents of North Marion County, the area known as French Prairie. It has come to our attention that Marion County has requested funding from the Connect Oregon II Transportation project for a control tower at the Aurora Airport. We believe this decision is inappropriate and premature and should not be pursued until a broader community dialogue about the future of the airport has occurred.

Currently the Aurora Airport has no long term master plan. The previous master plan for the Aurora Airport is over ten years out of date and does not anticipate the stated needs of either the airport or the surrounding communities of Aurora, Wilsonville, Canby, Donald, Hubbard or Woodburn. Unless or until a meaningful community dialogue has occurred to involve the surrounding communities in the development of the airport, no major infrastructure decision should be undertaken. Local residents fear that outside interests have plans to turn the Aurora airport into something inconsistent with the agriculturally oriented nature of this part of Marion County.

We respectfully request that Marion County withdraw the request for Connect Oregon II funding for the Aurora Airport tower and instead begin a community-based, long-term planning effort for the Aurora Airport, including all effected local municipalities. We would be pleased to discuss this further with you so your can fully understand our concerns.

We are sure that the majority of French Prairie residents and those in surrounding Marion County and neighboring Clackamas County will want to understand in advance the potential development impact and have a say in the decision making.

Friends of French Prairie will be organizing a Public Meeting on this subject in January, 2008, and herewith is inviting the Marion County Commission to present its case for airport expansion and the process by which that position has been achieved.

Sincerely

Benjamin D. Williams
Friends of French Prairie