



OREGON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION



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"Partnering For a Safer Oregon"

October 30, 2018

RE: Commercial Air Service to McNary field, Salem, OR

To Whom It May Concern:

The Salem Airport Disaster Preparedness Group, headed by Neal White, has been working in collaboration with Marion County Emergency Management, the City of Salem Emergency Manager and various other state and local agencies to assess the resiliency of Salem's airport. This whole of community approach represents the best possible practice in emergency management, and the effort could not be more important to Salem and Marion County. Indeed, the ability of McNary Field to support an emergency response following a Cascadia Subduction Zone Earthquake has statewide significance.

Current plans for such a response from the Federal Emergency Management Agency identify Salem as a principle airport that will support the delivery of supplies to the region as well as the evacuation of people out of the area. Salem is of such importance that the Oregon Office of Emergency Management prioritized Salem to be the second airport in the entire state to be scheduled for a FEMA assessment. Only Redmond, the primary federal staging area was given a higher priority. This assessment, which will take place in November, will further highlight the importance of the field and identify gaps in its preparedness. The principle gap at this time is the limited ability for US Air Force C-17 aircraft to operate into and out of the field.

In numerous meetings with state and federal officials, it was made clear to me that Salem will be much more likely to receive federal assistance to increase the capacity of the field if commercial service was restored to Salem. The approval of the ROAR Grant to attract and support airline service at McNary Field is an important step in the right direction to build resiliency in Oregon.

Ed Flick
President