

Date: April 9, 2025

To: Port of Portland Board of Commissioners

From: Miki Barnes

Topic: Opposition to 14 Acre Expansion for Private Jets at the Hillsboro Airport

Dear Chair Coba, Members of the Board of Commissions,

I urge you to oppose agenda item #4 - the Sky Harbour proposal to lease 14 acres at the Hillsboro Airport for the purpose of constructing a hangar campus for private and business jet aircraft.

A March 25, 2025 *Nation* article by Chuck Collins, the *Director of the Program on Inequality and the Common Good at the Institute for Policy Studies*, [These Activists Are Right: The World Doesn't Need Any More Private Jets](#), identifies **private jet travel as “one of the most carbon-polluting modes of transportation in the world.”**

The article referenced the findings of a recently released study,

“A new international study from Sweden found that carbon dioxide emissions from private jet travel surged 46 percent between 2019 and 2023, with 68.7 percent of the private jets registered in the United States. In 2023, direct private jet emissions were 15.6 megatons, with an average of 3.6 tons per flight.

“The Swedish study found that only 0.003 percent of the population use private jets, around 256,000 people worldwide. Each of them produces nearly 500 times more carbon dioxide in a year than the average citizen. The study also found that half the flights (47.4 percent) were shorter than 311 miles, and “flight pattern analysis confirms extensive travel for leisure purposes, and for cultural and political events.”

As noted in the report, though the population of the U.S. accounts for about 4% of the world population, 68.7% of all private jets are registered in this country. “Brazil has the second highest number (3.5%, 927 private

aircraft), followed by Canada (2.9%, 770), Germany (2.4%, 630), Mexico (2.0%; 534), and the UK (2.0%; 522). Per capita, Malta has by far the highest density of private jets (46.5 per 100,000 residents), followed by the USA (5.5), Switzerland (3.8), and Austria (2.9) (Supplementary Material, Table 2).”

This proposal, will primarily serve the millionaire and billionaire class of high flyers whose lavish lifestyles and travel habits will further degrade the public health, environment and biological diversity in Washington County, a jurisdiction that is already severely impacted by the noise, lead emissions and toxic pollution generated by student and private pilots, charter jet companies, and other highly polluting aviation activity over the region.

At a crucial juncture in the history of this planet, when many Oregonians are making a concerted effort to reduce their carbon footprint by driving less, using public transit, bicycling, walking, and supporting high speed rail options, this proposal promotes aviation growth and expansion on behalf of a wealthy few to the detriment of the greater good.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Please include these comments in full in the meeting minutes.

Kind Regards,

Miki Barnes

Please enter the following articles into the record.

Collins, Chuck. (*Director of the Program on Inequality and the Common Good at the Institute for Policy Studies*), These Activists Are Right: The World Doesn't Need Any More Private Jets. Nation. (3/25/2025)

Gössling, S., Humpe, A. & Leitão, J.C. Private aviation is making a growing contribution to climate change. *Commun Earth Environ* **5**, 666 (2024).
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s43247-024-01775-z>

HIGH FLYERS 2023 How Ultra-Rich Private Jet Travel Costs the Rest of Us and Burns Up Our Planet (MAY 2023). Patriotic Millionaires and Institute for Policy Studies.