

Contacts: Aron Faegre  
President, Oregon Aviation Industries  
[faegre@earthlink.net](mailto:faegre@earthlink.net)  
503-222-2546

Mitch Swecker, Director  
Oregon Department of Aviation  
[mitch.t.swecker@aviation.state.or.us](mailto:mitch.t.swecker@aviation.state.or.us)  
503 378-2340

For immediate release.

### **Governor Kitzhaber proclaims October Aviation Appreciation Month**

Portland, Oregon October 2, 2013-----

Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber, M.D. issued a proclamation declaring October 2013 as ***Aviation Appreciation Month*** in Oregon.

The Proclamation, signed by Governor Kitzhaber and Secretary of State Kate Brown, was announced at the September Oregon Aviation Industries Summit by Mitch Swecker, Director of Oregon Department of Aviation and Mark Gardiner, Chair of the Aviation Board. Mary Rosenblum of the Oregon Pilot's Association and Kristi Ivey of National Business Aviation Association also participated in the announcement.

The Proclamation stated-----

General aviation and community airports play a critical role in the lives of our citizens, as well as in the operation of our cities, counties, businesses, ranches and farms.

The state of Oregon has a significant interest in the continued vitality of general aviation, aircraft manufacturing, aviation organizations and community airports.

There are 97 public use airports and over 360 private airports in the state which are part of the essential national system of airports servicing our nation's 617,000 pilots.

There are over 400 aviation related businesses in 78 cities throughout Oregon with an average wage of over \$62,395.

General aviation airports play a vital role in the State's response to emergencies and natural disasters including aviation firefighting, medevac, earthquake and tsunami response.

Airports in Oregon were responsible for over 12,000 family-wage jobs in 78 cities around the state and over \$2 billion in economic impact attributable to the state's aviation industry.

-----

The Oregon Aviation Industries Summit at the Evergreen Aviation and Space Museum where the announcement was made on September 19<sup>th</sup> drew a crowd of 130 aviation and support professionals to hear from industry, government and education leaders. [www.ORAVI.org](http://www.ORAVI.org)

"When aviation is mentioned, most folks think of the airlines and major airports such as Portland, Eugene, Medford and Redmond", said Mitch Swecker, Oregon Aviation Department Director. "However, the hundreds of smaller airports and their associated businesses scattered across our state are truly a major asset for the people in Oregon. We are delighted that the Governor's Proclamation brings public attention to the value of general aviation in Oregon"