

## Rachael Gangelhoff

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**From:** Clair Donnithorne <donnithornec@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 18, 2025 3:38 PM  
**To:** CityRecorder  
**Subject:** Public testimony to Salem city council on a new commercial airline contract

Hello,

My name is Clair Donnithorne and I am a resident in Ward 2.

I understand council has a closed session this evening to discuss a new commercial airline to operate out of Salem now that Avelo Airlines has cancelled their contract with the city, and you are accepting public comment.

While I am not opposed to having a commercial airline operate out of Salem, I am concerned about the financial impact on our city in order to attract another airline to Salem. I would far rather see my tax dollars support local services, including housing, parks, and the library, over providing a minimum revenue guarantee to an airline. The contract with Avelo Airlines was advertised to foster tourism to the Willamette Valley but the data I've seen shows a net negative for our community. I do not want our city to repeat that failed experiment.

Moreover, I ask Council to include language in all future contracts (including with any airlines) that prohibits the contractor from cooperating or contracting with any federal immigration authority for purposes of the detention, holding, or transportation of an individual, whether or not that cooperation or contract is conducted outside of our city. I do not want to see a repeat of the situation that occurred with Avelo contracting with ICE. And I do not want my tax dollars to subsidize an airline (or other company) who engages in activities contrary to Salem and Oregon's sanctuary city/state status.

Thank you for accepting my testimony.  
Clair Donnithorne

## Rachael Gangelhoff

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**From:** Jameson Gideon <Jameson@SalemChamber.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 18, 2025 4:44 PM  
**To:** CityRecorder; Courtney Knox Busch  
**Cc:** tom@salemchamber.org  
**Subject:** SACC Comments for City Council Work Session (8/18)  
**Attachments:** SACC\_Support Air Service\_8\_18\_25.pdf

Good afternoon City Recorder Office,

Please find the attached comments for tonight's City Council work session.

Thanks always and let me know if you have any questions.

Best regards,  
Jameson

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**Jameson Gideon, J.D.**

Director of Business Advocacy

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August 18, 2025  
Salem City Council  
585 Liberty Street SE, Salem OR 97301

## RE: Commercial Air Service Update

Dear Mayor Julie Hoy and Members of the Salem City Council,

Our organization represents over one thousand (1,000+) local businesses and forty-five thousand (45,000) employees in the Salem area. Our organization is dedicated to helping businesses prosper so our entire community may thrive.

As you are aware, it took many years and substantial efforts from countless community leaders to restart commercial air service again at the Salem-Willamette Valley Airport (SLE) in 2023. We have learned from Avelo that our regional airport can bring commercial activity into our local community, and that we have the population to sustain regional air service.

We had approximately 11,000 passengers in 2025, and over 89,000 passengers since commercial air service restarted in Salem (SLE). Commercial flights injected \$32 million in new visitor spending into our local economy. This is the kind of economic activity that our local small businesses need and depend on to be viable. Our Salem area alone has 7,500 jobs in the tourism and hospitality industries. Commercial air service is a direct lifeline to business expansion and increased job opportunities. Eugene and Redmond have invested in their airports and did so because they know their investment in commercial air service makes their communities more prosperous.

The time to capitalize on our airport investment is now. We have already invested in the modernization of our airport terminal; we have the TSA equipment and airport operations ready to seamlessly transition to a new commercial air service. We ask the City Council to examine the return on investment and consider the longevity of economic progress that accompanies recruitment of commercial air service at SLE.

Respectfully,

Tom Hoffert, CEO Salem Area Chamber of Commerce

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*Salem Area Chamber of Commerce*

## Rachael Gangelhoff

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**From:** kelleynnn <kelleynnn@protonmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 18, 2025 4:43 PM  
**To:** CityRecorder  
**Subject:** Commercial air service in Salem

Dear City of Salem,

Whatever the future of transportation in Salem may be, Avelo Airlines should not be a part of it. They play dirty, and I do not trust them. Please minimize, and eliminate if possible, all dealings with them. Thank you.

Full disclosure, I am part of the Stop Avelo campaign that has been protesting at the airport.

Regards,  
Kelley Nielsen  
97301

Sent with [Proton Mail](#) secure email.