



June 11, 2019

Ohio Senate Finance Committee
The Ohio Statehouse
1 Capital Square
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: Written Testimony in Support of the Ohio Aviation Association's amendments to H.B. 166

Dear Members of the Ohio Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing in support of the three amendments the Ohio Aviation Association has placed before your Committee:

- 1) Increased funding to the Ohio Airport Grant Program from \$5.9 to \$16 Million
- 2) the creation of an Air Service Development Grant Fund in the amount of \$15 million
- 3) the creation of an Aviation Student Loan Program

Each of the amendments advances the aviation infrastructure and economic development of the State of Ohio and should be supported, but I wish to share how the Ohio Airport Grant Program has benefitted the Kent State University Airport.

In the past five years, we have benefited greatly from the State of Ohio's financial support through three grants which aided in the rehabilitation of our runway, taxiway, and parking aprons as well as the installation of an automated weather system.

Moving forward, the benefits of an aviation student loan program can have a real and substantial positive impact both in terms of local job creation and economic impact but also would go a long way in addressing the national pilot shortage.

Thank you for your consideration of these important amendments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Poluga".

David Poluga MBA, AAE
Airport Manager
Kent State University Airport

Kent State University Airport