



Auglaize County Airport Authority
07776 St. Rt. 219 • P.O. Box 400
New Knoxville, OH 45871 • 419.753.2810

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, and, lastly, 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 Neil Armstrong Airport.

Through numerous grant opportunities, the Neil Armstrong Airport has benefited from a runway extension, to obstruction mitigation, and the repainting of all the runway and taxiway markings. With the help of these infrastructure grants, the safety of the flying public has increased along with the economic viability of the region. Having a longer runway not only increases safety, a greater number of larger corporate traffic can utilize our Airport. Fire protection and fuel safety were a part of another project, helping to install a water and sanitary system from the local municipality, along with a storm water retention pond designed to contain a large fuel spill.

Thank you for your consideration of these important amendments.

Sincerely,

Ted Bergstrom
Airport Manager