

# Vinton County Commissioners Office

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Tim Eberts, President-- Mark D. Fout, Sr., Commissioner-- William Wellman, Commissioner

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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,

We write 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 Vinton County Airport.

The Vinton County Airport is a small general aviation airport located in rural Southeast Ohio. Vinton County is not wealthy; any improvements made at the Vinton County Airport must be supported through grants. FAA only provides funding up to 90% of a project. Without the Ohio Airport Grant Program's matching funds, Vinton County would not have been able to make millions of dollars of improvements in our airport over the last 20 years. This is an extremely valuable resource to be able to turn to.

Thank you for your consideration of these important amendments.

Sincerely,



Tim Eberts, President