

December 9, 2019

Senator Dolan:

Please accept the rationale below in support of Sub.SB204:

- Sub.SB204 replicates Ohio's Special Improvement District law which has helped to engender economic development in our downtown areas for decades.
- The bill gives the permissive authority to establish an Airport Development District (ADD) at three Ohio airports: Youngstown- Warren Airport, Dayton International Airport and Akron-Canton Airport.
- The ADD will pool the resources of property owners in and around each airport to assist in making infrastructure improvements at the airport and also help increase the number of flights at the airport.

Specific to our Youngstown-Warren Regional Airport:

- The Youngstown-Warren Regional Airport (YNG) has not had commercial service since 2017.
- The passage of this Bill augments the ability of Ohio's smaller commercial airports, such as YNG, to attract regularly scheduled commercial air service for their underserved population.
- Commercial airlines factor-in incentives as they consider establishing service at smaller airports and markets. Funding a competitive incentive package is difficult for a smaller airport, such as YNG, to achieve without an additional revenue stream or other assistance. This Bill provides such a funding mechanism.
- Regularly scheduled commercial air service furthers YNG's development and provides additional business opportunities for the community. Most importantly it benefits the Youngstown Air Reserve Station, the largest employer in the region, at over 1900 military and civilian personnel generating \$108 million to the regional economy.
- Competition for out-of-state students and staff is based on many factors: Youngstown State University is at a disadvantage to other campuses as we are located over an hour away from any daily air service activities. The academic and business community of the Mahoning Valley are supportive of the language in this bill.

An excellent example of governmental support for the smaller regional airport is in Florida. The Punta Gorda Airport, significantly smaller than the top ten airports in the state, with State and Federal investment, has increased its passenger count from 129,000 passengers in 2009 to over 1.6 million passengers in 2019, along with the significant business impact.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Tressel, President – Youngstown State University