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JAMES ANDREW HEWITT, P.E.
CITY ENGINEER

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 Akron Fulton International Airport (AKR). The City of Akron, which owns AKR, has been fortunate to receive three state grants in the past several years. We received \$307,180 in 2016 for apron rehabilitation, \$508,393 in 2017 for obstruction removal and lighting, and \$374,300 in 2018 for apron rehabilitation. These grants require the airport to match only 5% of the cost which tremendously helps our cash flow. While we are gracious for the funding we have received, our need is much greater. Our funding requests, like most of the airports in the state, far outweigh what we have received. In 2018, AKR requested \$2,542,700 for necessary improvements and repairs at the airport.

Thank you for your consideration of these important amendments. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 330-375-2699 or by email at tcapper@akronohio.gov.

Sincerely,

Travis L. Capper, P.E.
Akron Fulton International Airport

TLC/mm

c: J. Moore
J. Hewitt
Airport File