

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, 2) the creation of an Air Service Development Grant Fund, and 3) the creation of an Aviation Student Loan Program.

The Ohio Airport Grant Program has specifically benefited the Highland County Airport (HOC):

With the support of the Ohio Airport Grant Program and the FAA Airport Improvement Program, HOC has been able to refurbish its failing asphalt runway and to add LED runway edge lighting in support of local and transient operators. HOC is home to independent airframe & power plant repair services. We also serve as a satellite base for a well established Ohio-based Agriculture Aerial Application Service and are proud to have recently become the base-of-operations for a brand new Agriculture Aerial Application Service. HOC facilities are frequently utilized by Ohio aviation training programs including the Ohio University and the University of Cincinnati's professional pilot programs.

These amendments merit consideration - as they seek to advance Ohio's aviation infrastructure and foster the associated economic development. In addition to being an important part of Ohio's heritage, aviation is forecast to increase its role as technology progresses.

Thank you for your consideration of these amendments,
Monte Shaw, Secretary/Treasurer Highland County Airport Authority