

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.

- Increased funding to the Ohio Airport Grant Program from \$5.9 to \$16 Million
- The creation of an Air Service Development Grant Fund in the amount of \$15 million
- Lastly, 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 Grimes Field Municipal Airport.

Grimes Field is a 100% self-supporting Airport receiving no money from the City's General Fund or the local community. Our reliance on only Hangar Rent and Fuel Sales makes it very challenging to operate. We must therefore rely very heavily on Grants we can receive. Just maintenance costs alone on the amount of pavement an airport has to maintain is staggering. Without grants to supplement our maintenance, and the security improvements we have to make, Grimes Field could not continue to serve the community as we do. Grimes is the only airport in the U.S. with 3 aviation museums on site, and truly a state treasure.

Thank you for your consideration of these important amendments.

Sincerely,

Elton Cultice, Airport Manager
City of Urbana, Director of Aviation
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