

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 can benefit the Wayne County Airport.

Currently, our taxiway only parallels halfway down the runway. This causes pilots to have to back taxi on the runway more often than not and I'm sure you can understand the safety issues that this poses. Luckily, the grant money that we are attempting to secure for the upcoming year will allow this airport to extend the parallel taxiway down the entire length of the runway AND it will allow us to move the taxiway further away from the runway centerline. Wrapped up in both of these improvements is our chance to improve the drainage around the airport as well. This eliminates standing water on our newly improved runway surface and eliminates cascading water over our taxiways.

These improvements will have a great impact on the Wayne County Airport's economic impact on Wayne County because pilots will no longer need to back taxi down the runway leaving the runway open for inbound and outbound air traffic. The water will be able to drain from our airport surfaces and no longer pose the risks of slippery or frozen surfaces. Finally, the improvements will allow larger aircraft to transit through our airport without the risk of being too close to the taxiway anymore. This last benefit alone will have a tremendous impact on the economic growth and production throughout Wayne County.

Thank you for your consideration of these important amendments.

Respectfully,
Amanda McGee
Airport Manager
Wayne County Airport
6020 N. Honeytown Rd.
Smithville, Ohio 44677
Phone: 330-669-9212