



June 14, 2019

Senator Matt Dolan
Chairman
Senate Finance Committee
1 Capitol Square
1st Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Dolan,

The Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) is the world leader in recreational aviation. With an international membership of nearly 220,000 people in over 100 nations including 35 chapters and over 7,000 members in Ohio, EAA brings together pilots, aircraft builders, owners, and aviation enthusiasts who are dedicated to sharing *the Spirit of Aviation* by promoting the continued growth of aviation, the preservation of its history and a commitment to its future.

EAA is writing in opposition of language in section 411.17 of House Bill 166 that makes commercial service and cargo-dedicated airports eligible for grants under the Ohio Airport Grant Program. These grants are currently available to smaller airports that do not have the same large outside sources of funding as commercial service airports do, such as passenger facility charges and concession fees. The grants in this program are already in high demand from general aviation airports, and allowing larger commercial airports to compete for these funds will inevitably prevent smaller general aviation airports from accessing the funding that they need for vital maintenance and improvement projects.

Smaller general aviation airports have a vital role in the aviation industry and the Ohio economy. Operations including emergency medical transports, law enforcement, and utility inspections rely on Ohio's strong network of general aviation airports to complete time sensitive flights. These airports serve many important purposes not only for EAA's members, but for the entire public. State level funding provides necessary resources for projects that promote safety and improve infrastructure at small general aviation airports.

We thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding this bill, and ask that you remove the language in section 411.17. If you have any questions, please contact me at (920)426-6103 or ljohnson@eaa.org.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lily Johnson", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Lily Johnson
Government Advocacy Specialist