



May 14, 2019

On behalf of the Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce, I am pleased to offer our support to commercial airports in Ohio, including the Akron-Canton Airport (CAK), in their efforts to include \$15 million in the state budget for air service attraction by offering revenue guarantees.

In recent months, community leaders in Akron-Canton have focused special attention and efforts on strategies that attract and retain talent, contribute to business growth, and position our region for future success. We know that to have a strong community, we must have strong air service; it's essential for growth in a global economy.

That sentiment is echoed by our regional businesses - leaders in the energy, advanced manufacturing, logistics, technology, healthcare and polymer sectors - who rely on competitive and convenient air service as a vital means for doing business. Strong air service is one of their top criteria in deciding where to locate or expand their businesses, especially since most of them operate around the world. To retain and grow these businesses, we must show our commitment to increased air service.

That's why we fully support an amendment to the state budget to develop an air service development grant fund to support new domestic and international flights as well as increased capacity on existing routes.

We have an opportunity to ensure that Ohio is not at a competitive disadvantage to our neighboring states, including Indiana and Pennsylvania, who have already implemented such programs. In fact, 19 states currently have air service incentive programs. Ohio must be the 20th, if we intend to attract talent and recognize business growth.

Please consider this letter as our full support of the amendment that would develop a \$15 million state air service development grant fund. If you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact me at dennys@cantonchamber.org or 330.456.7253.

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dennis P. Saunier".

President and CEO