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5/21/2019

Honorable Senator Dolan
Senate Finance Committee Chair
Senate Building
One Capitol Square
1st Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

RE: Amendment for HB 166 - Airport Improvements

Dear Chairman Dolan and committee members,

We are a logistics business based out of Van Wert. In 1999 we opened a second location in Nashville, TN. To travel back and forth, I had two options (see attachment 1). One option was to drive 6 ½ hours each way. The other option was to fly commercial out of Ft Wayne, Ind- thru Chicago- to Nashville. This trip took 7 hours each way. I would drive this trip every other week.

In 2005 I entered into a partnership on a single engine airplane based at Van Wert Airport (VNW). My first trip to Nashville took 2 hours. This completely changed the way I traveled. As I began to make Nashville trips, the time savings was incredible.

As Nashville became much easier to access, and manage, we began to look at other opportunities (see attachment 2). This is an example of the trips I currently make from a local airport (VNW) 3 miles from my house. Many of these trips can be made round trip in a day. Because of this, we now have 10 locations. There would be no possible way to manage this without our local airport. The time involved in the travel would not allow it.

Six years ago, I was asked to join the Van Wert Airport Board. Our goal was to improve the airport included replacing our terminal which was built in 1939. In order to do this, we would need to raise money from private donations. As we went out looking for donations, and speaking with citizens and business owners, we also promoted the use of our local airport. Today we are seeing much more local charter activity. I believe this is due to our visits with our community members. We have raised \$1.2 million in donations toward our new terminal.

Funding for airports needs to be more accessible. We are lucky to have raised the needed money for our facility. But we knew we could not use grant dollars for this project. The current

requirements on State funding for general aviation projects is very restrictive. It would be beneficial to Ohio's communities if eligibility could be expanded beyond just pavements, obstructions, and the like.

Attachment 3 is what I am most proud of. It is a picture of me in front of my Bonanza, with a young man who I took on an airplane ride. Max is now in the air force. He is the 2nd person who I have given rides to, who has joined the air force. Not sure I had much to do with their decision, but I am still proud of it. This ONLY happens at general aviation airports.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Keysor". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Encl.: Three exhibits

Cc: Stacey Heaton, Executive Director, Ohio Aviation Association

RED LINE - COMMERCIAL = 7 HOURS

BLUE LINE - DRIVE = 6.5 HOURS

GREEN LINE - BONANZA = 2 HOURS





FCM (Minneapolis)

SYR (Syracuse)

VNW (Van Wert)

ALN (St. Louis, MO)

HLB (Batesville)

HSU (Huntsville)

ADS (Dallas)

JAX (Jacksonville)

