

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 26, 2012

The Honorable Michael P. Huerta
Acting Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Mr. Huerta:

We are writing in support of the request submitted by the City of Dayton, Ohio, for Terminal Apron Line of Sight Obstruction Removal and Apron Improvements to improve and sustain the Dayton International Airport. The City has requested \$4,192,110 from the Airport Improvement Program (AIP) Discretionary Funding. These funds will be matched by \$2,557,890 in Entitlement Funding and a \$750,000 local match. This grant will help ensure the continued success of the airport, which serves as an important financial asset for the city and for Ohio.

The project will remove the airport's Concourse D structure, foundation, and utilities and improve the site into an apron that would be used for aircraft parking and Ground Support Equipment. The project will also expand the northern portion of the Terminal Apron along the northwest side of Concourse C to increase ready over-night aircraft parking, add apron parking for diverted aircraft traffic, and facilitate improved efficiency of gate operations.

The project is important to the airport because of the safety issues involved with the line of sight on the terminal apron and aircraft movements around the unused Concourse D. It is our understanding that there have been several near-miss events between aircraft and vehicles traveling around the concourse over the past few years.

Concourse D itself also has several safety issues. The building contains asbestos and has an outdated fire alarm and suppression system, among other safety concerns. In addition to high operational costs (heating and cooling), major maintenance has not been done on the deteriorated building for more than 10 years.

Removal of the structure would result in the expansion of the North Terminal Apron to the west and will provide for additional aircraft ground parking positions for up to 4-5 aircraft. By providing the additional RON parking, the Dayton International Airport will be able to accommodate future capacity that may be generated by the Airport's newest carrier, Southwest Airlines. The airport will also provide immediate relief should air traffic control divert traffic from nearby Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport (CVG) or Port Columbus International Airport (CMH) due to inclement weather conditions in southwest or central Ohio.

The Dayton International Airport lies at the crossroads of the country's most traveled highways, Interstates 70 and 75. With the right enhancements, this location can help to sustain the airport as the economic catalyst for the region.

Over the past twelve months, the Dayton International Airport has witnessed an increase in passenger enplanements due to the airport's commitment to reduce its operating costs. This has made the Dayton International Airport a competitive outlet for both airlines and passengers. We appreciate your consideration of the airport's funding request.

Sincerely,



Michael R. Turner
Member of Congress



Steve Austria
Member of Congress



Sherrod Brown
U.S. Senator



Rob Portman
U.S. Senator