NORTHERN MICHIGAN CHAMBER

ALLIANCE

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December 1, 2015

Hon. Wayne Schmidt, Chairman
Senate Commerce Committee
State of Michigan
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909-7536

RE: Support for aeronautics package – Senate Bills 418, 425, 426, 612, 613, and 614

Dear Chairman Schmidt,

On behalf of the Northern Michigan Chamber Alliance, a partnership of the eight largest chambers of commerce and economic development organizations in northern Michigan, we appreciate your and Senator Hansen's time in sponsoring and considering Senate Bills 418, 425, 426, 612, 613, and 614, to revamp Michigan's aviation fuel tax and airport funding models.

In concept, we support these bills and the work being done to address our state's compliance with federal aviation rules, and sustainable funding for air services in Michigan. These services are critical for economic development in the state for both large urban regions, and rural and micropolitan regions like northern Michigan.

We are also mindful of the great need for air infrastructure across the state, and want to ensure that northern Michigan airports are able to fund the infrastructure needs both now and in the future for air service in our growing communities. We believe the best outcome of this process would ensure our state is in compliance with federal aviation regulations, and also ensure that funding is obtained that is sufficient to meet the infrastructure needs of our local airports, which are so critical for our tourism economies and business growth in other growing industries across our state.

Thank you again for your understanding that air service is a critical component of helping northern Michigan companies connect their products and services with the rest of the world. Please let me know how the Northern Michigan Chamber Alliance can assist further in getting this done.

Sincerely,

Kent Wood
Director of Government Relations