Michigan Business Aviation Association

Statement of John Hatfield
Chair, Michigan Business Aviation Association (MBAA)
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Senator Wayne Schmidt and Members of the Senate Commerce Committee

The Michigan Business Aviation Association was founded 17 years ago for the specific purpose of establishing a stable and consistent revenue source to maintain and improve airport infrastructure throughout Michigan.

We represent business and general aviation airplane owners/operators, businesses, suppliers, aircraft repair stations, manufacturers, universities and aviation enthusiasts throughout the State of Michigan. Our members have one thing in common: they depend on general aviation aircraft to support their businesses and communities while overcoming some of their most difficult transportation challenges in order to remain competitive in a global economy.

On behalf of the Michigan Business Aviation Association (MBAA), we appreciate your hard work to improve this facet of Michigan's transportation system by providing a stable funding source for aviation infrastructure. In particular, Senator Schmidt, your efforts have been particularly appreciated.

We generally support Senate Bills 418, 425, 426, 612, 613 and 614 as they are before you today. We ask that you vote to report these bill out of committee, as these bills, if enacted, will achieve several objectives:

1. Provide a stable funding source for aviation infrastructure projects as defined by MDOT and the Aeronautics Commission
2. Will provide the necessary dollars to meet the eligibility requirements for federal matching requirements and help us meet future needs going forward and,
3. Satisfy the federal requirement of using tax revenues collected through aviation fuel specifically for aviation related projects.

Is this a perfect solution? No, but as I mentioned in my opening, after 17 years of working towards this goal, this is the closest we have come to having something close and believe this package is a good compromise and deserves support.

MBAA will continue to work closely with members of the legislature to increase funding for **all** of Michigan's airport infrastructure to ensure Michigan continues to offer first-rate air transportation services and infrastructure while being fair to **all** users both private and commercial creating jobs and commerce in the state.

Thank you again for all your efforts, and remember, ***One mile of road takes you one mile; one mile of runway takes you to the world!***

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