

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 6, 2015

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590
United States

Dear Secretary Foxx,

We write to impress upon you the importance of timely allocations of grant funding to airports under the Airport Improvement Program. With the enactment of PL 113-235 on December 16, 2014, the Department has certainty on the amount of funding available for administering its programs, and there should be no reason for delay in making discretionary grant decisions and allocating funding under both the discretionary and entitlement programs.

With the incredible growth our states face, all transportation infrastructure is under stress, and airports are no exception. Across our states, we need new terminals, new aprons, new runways and more to accommodate the increase in travelers. In fiscal year 2015, the North Dakota Aeronautics Commission has identified \$71.5 million in statewide airport construction projects, and over \$778.5 million over the next five years. The pipeline of airport construction projects across New York State is also huge, and the Airport Improvement Program has played a key role, providing nearly \$100 million in support in fiscal year 2014. Our airports are doing their part to plan for this growth, and both states are stepping up to the plate to find their share of the funding. It is the Federal Government's responsibility to hold up its side of the deal and provide funding in a timely manner.

Unlike southern states, our states' construction seasons are extremely short. Last year, our airports faced serious challenges, and some were unable to complete planned construction projects. For example, one airport was forced to delay a safety project for their taxiway altogether. Other projects received funding, but too late to do more than installing utilities and foundations. Had the airport received the funding even a few weeks sooner they would have been able to work through winter to complete the project.

It is critical that grant allocations be made in time for our airports to solidify contracts and get work started as soon as possible. We appreciate your consideration of this request and your longstanding support of our states' airports.

Sincerely,



Heidi Heitkamp
United States Senate



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senate