



February 24, 2020

The Honorable Sam Graves
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Garret Graves
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Aviation
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ranking Member Graves and Ranking Member Graves:

Through our partnership as AirportsUnited, we write in support of your bill, H.R. 5912, the Expedited Delivery of Airport Infrastructure Act, to ensure that Airport Improvement Program (AIP) funds can be used by airports to incentivize early completion of critical runway and airport projects.

AIP is a crucial source of funding for capital-improvement projects that enhance safety, security, and capacity at airports of all sizes. According to the FAA's National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems, airports have \$35 billion in AIP-eligible projects over the next five years – or \$7 billion annually. In recent years, though, airports have only received less than half that amount in traditional annual AIP grants. Furthermore, ACI-NA's latest Airport Infrastructure Needs Study estimates commercial service and general aviation airports have nearly \$130 billion in capital needs over the next five years for AIP-eligible, PFC-eligible, and other necessary projects.

Under current law airports have not been able to use AIP funds to incentivize early completion of airport projects. Reducing the time it takes to complete airport infrastructure projects helps minimize disruptions that negatively impact airlines, our passengers, and other airport customers. Completing projects early will be particularly helpful to airports in northern tier states with short construction cycles.

We appreciate your bill and efforts to make incentive payments for early completion of projects an eligible cost under AIP.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kevin M. Burke".

Kevin Burke
President and CEO
Airports Council International – North America

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Todd Hauptli".

Todd Hauptli
President and CEO
American Association of Airport Executives