

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1501

April 26, 2021

The Honorable David Price
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing,
and Urban Development, & Related
Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing
and Urban Development, & Related
Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Price and Ranking Member Diaz-Balart:

As you craft the fiscal year 2022 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, I respectfully request that you include \$1 million in Community Project Funding for the North Aircraft Parking Apron at the Independence Municipal Airport in Independence, IA, located at 331 1st St East, Independence IA, 50644.

This Airport Improvement Project (AIP) would have significant economic and environmental benefits to Independence, IA, a small rural community home to fewer than 6,000 residents. The Independence Municipal Airport has a major direct impact on the local economy. It is also important for the larger regional economy as one of only four Enhanced Services airports in the State of Iowa.

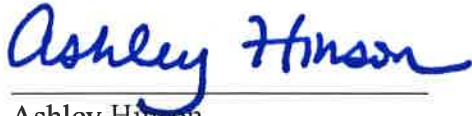
The existing aircraft parking apron at the airport has extremely limited space, and only has the capacity to tie-down two aircrafts overnight. During crop-spraying season, use of the Independence Municipal Airport increases by nearly five hundred percent and the size of the apron presents a major capacity challenge and poses environmental risks. The crop-spraying planes store chemical fertilizers, and a spill poses a direct threat to the environment and maintenance of the other nearby aircrafts. Limited access and unsafe conditions of the apron at the Independence Municipal Airport deters both regular and seasonal aviators from using the space for its operations.

The Independence Municipal Airport plans to construct an aircraft parking apron north of the terminal that will enable crop-spraying operations to remain separate from itinerant and local aircraft. The apron will serve as additional space for the parked and taxiing aircrafts. Crucially, it will also serve as an environmental safety net with spill abatement capabilities to collect any oil or fertilizer run-off. This project will have a noteworthy impact on the entire economy of Independence and the counties the airport serves. Not only will traffic at the airport increase, but the agriculture industry in this rural area will benefit greatly from increased efficiency and safety

during crop-spraying season. The growth of Independence, Iowa, has been stagnant for several years, and the enhancement of the municipal airport and local agriculture industry capability will serve as a catalyst for the city's development.

I strongly urge the Committee to include this Community Project Funding request in the FY 2022 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. The rural communities of Iowa have been overlooked for far too long, and this project presents the rare opportunity to bolster the multifaceted economy of Buchanan county.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Ashley Hinson in blue ink.

Ashley Hinson
Member of Congress
Committee on Appropriations