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NYAMA COMMENDS GOVERNOR HOCHUL VETO OF BILL TO REQUIRE PUBLIC ACCESS TO EV CHARGING SPACES AT COMMERCIAL GARAGES

Albany, NY, January 9, 2024—The New York Aviation Management Association (NYAMA) is pleased Governor Kathy Hochul rejected legislation that could have created compliance difficulties and resulted in revenue reductions for airports operating parking facilities. The legislation requires owners or operators of a privately owned building or facility used for parking to provide owners of electric vehicles access to certain EV charging station parking spaces at a reduced fee or for no-charge.

“While well intentioned, a review of the policy promoted by this legislation to implement a special multi-situational EV parking fee schedule raises several concerns,” said Mark Heefner, C.M., NYAMA President and Commissioner of Aviation for the Greater Binghamton Airport. “The bill’s provisions seem to require garages to submit plans for different parking rates based on time spent in the space while actively charging at state subsidized EV charging stations.”

NYAMA expressed concerns about the bill to lawmakers during the legislative session and later to counsels and advisors to the Governor. It wasn’t clear how, with the number of vehicles going in and out of airport parking facilities daily, such a system can be easily verified, managed, and controlled as envisioned. Further, many parking facilities at airports use a parking fee payment system that is fully automated, making it difficult if not impossible to implement a policy that differentiates between a vehicle operator parking in the garage for airport purposes and someone using a charging station space for EV charging.

NYAMA and NY airports are at the forefront of efforts to reduce GHG emissions, from installing rooftop solar energy generation and energy efficient lighting, to converting operations that generate emissions to electric where possible to help the state meet its climate goals. Nearly all airports have installed EV charging stations at their existing text parking, surface lot locations and many garages. Heefner successfully argued that the difficulty of complying with the operational mandates of the bill could be a disincentive for the garage operator to install EV chargers.

“NYAMA looks forward to continuing to work with the legislature and the Hochul Administration on promoting and advancing important economic development efforts and energy conservation initiatives for airports and the state’s aviation industries,” Heefner concluded.