



New York State Legislature

December 6, 2024

Hon. Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
Executive Chamber
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Re: Support for New York Aviation Management
Association (NYAMA) State Budget Request
\$250M – NY Legislative Aviation Caucus Support

Dear Governor Hochul,

As co-chairs of the New York Legislative Aviation Caucus, we are writing to express our strong support of New York Aviation Management Association's (NYAMA) request to allocate a new round of funding for the Upstate Airport Economic Development and Revitalization initiative in the 2025-2026 Executive Budget. The new round should also extend eligibility to certain downstate airports—exclusive of NYNJ Port Authority airports—which also play an important role in state and national airport systems.

The Aviation Caucus, a bipartisan group of legislators dedicated to the advancement of aviation in our state, recognizes your steadfast commitment to the improvement and modernization of our airports as evidenced by your enthusiastic embrace of this program and the economic development projects which you have personally showcased around the state.

The Aviation Caucus is in support of NYAMA's request for \$250M for the next round over the remaining two years of the 5-Year Transportation Capital Plan for the Upstate Airport Program. We agree it is imperative to provide our airports with the support they need to facilitate not only corresponding federal and local financing commitments but also to help develop the enhanced features which attract and retain scheduled commercial service to airports in key areas of the state.

New York's Airport System is a vital economic engine supporting the state economy. According to new data from the NYS Department of Transportation, the NY aviation sector grew by \$30 billion over the last 10 years. NY airports support more than 454,000 aviation related jobs and \$80 billion in total economic activity each year. This sustained and growing performance is significantly fueled by the state's investments in airport infrastructure.

We are ready and willing to collaborate with your administration on this vital program's next phase.

Together, we can ensure New York continues to lead the way in updating and modernizing its critical aviation infrastructure for the benefit of all New Yorkers.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to our state and its residents. Your leadership is pivotal in shaping New York's aviation sector, and the Aviation Caucus is eager to work with you to support this important endeavor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Martinez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping tail.

Senator Monica R. Martinez
Co-Chair, New York Aviation Caucus

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donna L. Lupardo". The signature is cursive and elegant, with a large initial "D" and a long, sweeping tail.

Assemblymember Donna Lupardo
Co-Chair, New York Aviation Caucus

cc:

Marie Therese Dominguez, Commissioner, NYSDOT
Hope Knight, President/CEO Empire State Development
Blake G. Washington, Director, NYSDOB
Assemblymember William Magnarelli, Assembly Transportation Chair
Senator Jeremy Cooney, Senate Transportation Chair
Allison Bradley, Assistant Secretary of Transportation, Executive Chamber
Janet Ho, Assistant Commissioner for Finance & Integrated Modal Services, NYSDOT
Mark Heefner, President NYAMA