

Board of Directors

President – Greg Topping, PE
McFarland Johnson, Inc.

Vice President – Mark Heefner
Greater Binghamton Airport

Treasurer – H. Jason Terreri, IAP, A.A.E
Syracuse Hancock International Airport

Secretary – Grant W. Sussey, C.M.
Watertown International Airport

Past President – Mike Hall
PFA Consulting

Madeline Arango
LaGuardia Airport

Kirsten Cerro
C & S Engineers, Inc

Matthew Colbert
Empire Aviation Services

John P. DelBalso, C.M., A.C.E.
CHA Companies

Carrem Gay, C.M., ACE
Port Authority of NY & NJ

Richard Leppert
Seneca Flight Operations – Penn Yan

Dr. Maxine Lubner
Vaughn College of Aeronautics and Technology

Robert McAdams
Modern Aviation

Andrew Moore, C.M.
Frederick Douglass – Greater Rochester International Airport

Robert Schneider
Long Island MacArthur Airport

Ken Stewart
NUAIR

Lee Weitz
Buffalo Niagara International Airport

NYAMA STAFF

Bruce W. Geiger
Legislative Representative, Bruce W. Geiger & Associates, Inc.

Rebecca Harrington
Executive Director

January 19, 2023

Honorable Charles E. Schumer
United States Senate
Hart Senate Office Building, 322
Washington, DC, 20510

Re: Reliever Airport Classification Act

Dear Senator Schumer:

The New York Aviation Management Association (NYAMA) appreciates your ongoing interest and support of airports and the aviation industries throughout the nation as particularly in New York.

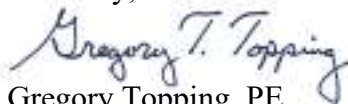
As an association that has a significant membership from the General Aviation (GA) community, we are extremely supportive of your legislative proposal to establish a special rule for the reclassification of certain unclassified airports in the National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems. The unclassified reliever airports in the NPIAS have always been critical to the Country's airport system. Those airports have accepted FAA Airport Improvement Program (AIP) grants for needed capital improvements in exchange for a commitment to remain publicly use airports in perpetuity.

In recent years, the FAA has recanted the agreed obligation to fund these important projects without releasing the unclassified reliever airports from their commitment to serve as public airports. These airports have great difficulty funding capital improvements without grant funding. As a result, degradation of these facilities is inevitable, which is detrimental to the national airport system and public safety, and would waste valuable assets previously funded by the taxpayers of the United States.

NYAMA leadership would like to work with you and your staff on this legislative initiative that would assist many unclassified GA airports in New York.

We are urging that the bill be introduced early in the 118th Congress so that it can be advanced in the Senate as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Gregory Topping, PE
President