

County Officials Urge State Support for Airports, Aviation Industry

ALBANY, NY (09/26/2012)-- At its Fall Conference, the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC), which represents the thousands of elected and appointed county officials throughout the state, formally recognized the critical role airports play in New York State's economy and urged the Governor and State Legislature to increase funding for airports and the aviation industry.

The resolution is in response to the inadequate levels of funding in the adopted state budget for airport development and infrastructure investment and the negative impact this will have on local economies and job growth.

"The importance of state investment in maintaining and developing aviation facilities to provide air service, general aviation support and enhanced security cannot be overstated," said Ann B. Crook, President of the New York Aviation Management Association (NYAMA) and Director of Aviation of Elmira Corning Regional Airport. "NYSAC and its elected and appointed leaders from county government continue to be vital partners with the aviation community and we welcome this most recent show of support," Ms. Crook stated.

NYSAC-adopted resolutions become the group's policy positions and agenda going forward and are used to inform the Governor and members of the State Legislature as to the priorities of county government.

The aviation resolution says in part: *"State funding now directed to airport enhancement, expansion and development falls woefully short of the levels required as determined by the NY State Department of Transportation."* Consequently, county officials are urging the Governor and the Legislature to increase the state budget appropriations for such programs as the State's Airport Improvement Program (AIP) and the popular AIR 99' program-which when funded, provides valuable financial assistance for vital infrastructure at airports across New York, funding aircraft hangars, repairs of existing facilities, safety enhancements and other important projects.

NYAMA President Crook expects NYSAC support to be a tremendous help in her Association's efforts to increase state funding for the AIP and AIR 99' grant programs "and to insure that airports are recognized by the Governor and the Legislature as the economic engines they are, contributing over \$50 billion in annual economic activity and approximately 394,500 New York State jobs, representing 4.6 percent of the 8.5 million jobs in the state," Ms. Crook concluded.

About The New York Aviation Management Association: NYAMA has nearly 13,000 members and affiliate members and represents over 120 commercial service and general aviation airports, fixed based operators, consultants, engineers and other aviation industries and professionals who believe that serious economic development efforts at the state and regional

level necessitate strong public investment in our aviation assets and facilities. NYAMA seeks to work with the Legislature and the Governor to realize the full potential of NY's airports and aviation industries as the driver of new, high-quality and sustainable jobs, and to attract greater private sector investment. NYAMA has been the Voice of Aviation in New York for more than 36 years.