

BRIAN HIGGINS
27TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
BORDER AND MARITIME SECURITY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON COUNTERTERRORISM
AND INTELLIGENCE

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE
MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA
SUBCOMMITTEE ON TERRORISM,
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January 27, 2012

The Honorable John Mica
Chairman
Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure
2187 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nick Rahall
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure
2307 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jay Rockefeller
Chairman
Committee on Commerce, Science, and
Transportation
531 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison
Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce, Science, and
Transportation
284 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Mica, Ranking Member Rahall, Chairman Rockefeller, and Ranking Member Hutchison,

I write you today in strong support of the Essential Air Service (EAS) program and I urge you to fully fund and extend the operation of the program to include the Jamestown, New York airport as you negotiate the reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration. Without EAS, tens of thousands of my constituents, as well as the entire business community in Chautauqua County in my District would not have feasible access to commercial air service in and out of the area, decreasing their mobility and economic productivity.

EAS was created in 1978 to guarantee that small communities like Jamestown that had previously been served by commercial air carriers could continue to have access to air transportation upon deregulation of the domestic air carriers. As a result, carriers can extend air service to the Chautauqua County/Jamestown Airport by participating in this important initiative.

The greater Chautauqua County community relies on the commercial air service provided at the Chautauqua County/Jamestown Airport for life quality and economic development purposes. The availability of commercial air service is a critical component of any economic development strategy. Commercial air service is an amenity that the economic development community has long used to entice new businesses to move to the area and as an essential factor in keeping business in the area and

to encourage business to grow. Cutting off this grant program now would act as a significant economic setback. Consequently, I would strongly urge you to fully fund and extend the Essential Air Service program to prevent such a result.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I look forward to working with you on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian Higgins". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B".

BRIAN HIGGINS
Member of Congress