



## Ohio Aviation Means...

...Impacts. Jobs. Growth. State Vitality.

There is no denying that the aviation industry is a vital part of Ohio's economy and is an essential part of everyday life of Ohioans. Our airports play a critical role ensuring the state's ability to attract, generate, and maintain business and employment. Airports are global gateways that allow companies the ability to establish operations, move people and cargo seamlessly between locations, connect business with tourism, and increasingly serve as a critical workforce and economic development attraction and retention tool.

Despite the aviation industry's significant economic impact and Ohio's status as the "Birthplace of Aviation", neighboring states have overtaken Ohio in terms of aviation infrastructure investment, air service connectivity, aviation workforce training, and economic development projects involving air transportation. Importantly, the lack of investment in aviation has significant spillover effects to the state's workforce and economic development attraction efforts.

As the Voice of Airports in Ohio, the **Ohio Aviation Association** works to develop policies and affect legislation by lobbying the state executive and legislative branches while working in conjunction with regulatory agencies. Below are our policy priorities for 2018-2019 that are designed to reclaim Ohio's reputation as the leader of the aviation industry.

**Bring Ohio's commercial service airports into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century by investing in ongoing and planned terminal and airfield projects.**

- Ohio's commercial service airports generate over 105,000 jobs, \$3.5 billion in payroll, and \$11.4 billion in annual economic output while federal and state resources for these airports have declined 45% in the last decade.
- The current terminal development improvement needs of all Ohio commercial services airports is in excess of \$1.5 billion.
- Ohio needs to develop a *significant*, one-time, grant program to support these infrastructure improvements.

**Create a sustainable funding stream to provide needed infrastructure improvements at Ohio's network of airports.**

- Reinvest 100 percent of aviation related tax revenue back into the Ohio Airport Grant Program (estimated at \$16 million).
- Revise Ohio's legislation to make all airports within the Ohio Airport System Plan eligible for grant funding.

**Enhance Ohio's connectivity to the global economy and workforce by investing in support programs to attract new international and domestic air service.**

- Neighboring states such as Pennsylvania and Indiana have invested up to \$15 million in air service support programs to attract new air service to Paris and Frankfurt that supports workforce and economic development attraction efforts.
- Create a \$15 million Air Service Development Fund to provide minimum revenue guarantees and marketing assistance to air carriers to support new international and domestic air service.

**Invest in Ohio's students interested in careers in aviation by providing additional access to grants and loans.**

- An opportunity exists for Ohio to become the aviation-training leader in the nation, which would lead to the creation and attraction of aviation-related businesses in Ohio.
- Develop a statewide revolving loan fund (\$15-20 million) to provide access to low-interest loans to support training for students entering aviation related careers at Ohio universities and community colleges.
- Develop a \$15 million grant fund for aviation training programs at universities, community colleges, and high schools to improve their infrastructure and facilities to accommodate the future growth of aviation training.