



## The Voice of Ohio Airports



## 2018-2019 Public Policy Agenda

# OAA is...

## The Voice of Ohio Airports

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, and connect business with tourism. It's our job to make sure that Ohio's multifaceted airport system across the state remains competitive in an increasingly global economy.

To that end, the Ohio Aviation Association reorganized itself four years ago to become a more effective organization in protecting member's interests and expanding aviation across the state. Armed with a new purpose we began to shape public policy at the local, state, and national levels. And with a new strategic plan in place, the Ohio Aviation Association embarked on a mission to increase state funding for aviation programs and projects.

State-level funding for aviation programs and projects was a historic low with less than \$1 million being invested in the Ohio Airport Grant Program. We met with legislators, local and county government officials, chambers of commerce and economic development partners to remind policy makers that access to airports is a key driver in site selection, business relocation, and expansion decisions. This industry supports 123,000 jobs and generates more than \$13 billion in economic activity each year in Ohio alone.

With your help, the FY 2016-2017 state budget increased the Ohio Airport Grant Program to \$6 million per fiscal year. Thank you for your help in re-

minding the Ohio legislature that access to reliable airports is a major benefit for businesses looking to expand or relocate and that general aviation airports are critical to the state's overall economic competitiveness. This increase would not have happened without your efforts as airport managers and industry leaders across the state.

The OAA was able to keep our momentum through the next budget cycle and are proud to share that in a year when most programs were cut back, the Ohio Airport Grant Program received \$5.3 million for FY2018-2019.

Ohio was once a regional and national leader in the aviation sector; our state license plates still bear the saying, "Birthplace of

## Aviation Means



Aviation." This new investment is a first step in helping Ohio regain its status as a regional, national, and international leader in aviation and aerospace.

The Ohio Aviation Association is the voice for airports that contribute to the economic vibrancy and well-being of Ohio. Now more than ever, it's important that we continue to focus on how important it is to continue reinvesting in our aviation infrastructure and advocate for policies that support and promote aviation. It is only through your voices that we have the ability to provide a meaningful impact on the policies and issues that affect the aviation industry.



## Member Driven

As airport managers, fixed base operators, airport planners, engineers, pilots, airport sponsors, aviation education institutions, and aviation enthusiasts, we represent an aviation community dedicated to airport development, safety, and economic sustainability in Ohio.

Given the diversity of size of our airports, the aviation industry, and political ideologies, it can be difficult to avoid side issues, self-interests or various competing agendas. So how do we prioritize the issues that affect the aviation industry? Membership engagement and collaboration.

Our agenda is based on multiple conversations and membership surveys that tell us the issues you believe are important. We then prioritize those issues and provide members various opportunities to participate through committees, calls to action, webinars, conferences, and meetings with legislators and other regulatory bodies that impact the aviation industry.

Collaboration and partnerships are the fuel that improves our ability to impact those forces that affect the business activity of our airports. Your membership allows us to build strong



## Jobs



and meaningful relationships ensuring that we are sharing the right information and are effective in achieving goals.

As members, you influence OAA's leadership decisions and set strategic direction. As individuals, you each have a unique role to play and

your engagement helps to make OAA more effective.

## Advocacy

The Advocacy Committee is comprised of OAA board directors, members, and volunteers with public policy experience and aviation interests. In making public policy recommendations for the board's consideration and approval, the Advocacy Committee studies public policy options from differing viewpoints and weighs the opinions of members, staff, and policy experts and then submits advocacy recommendations to the board. Once approved, the committee works to implement those policies in conjunction with grassroots efforts that rely on OAA members contacting and educating local legislators and officials.

At the state level, OAA works to affect legislation that reflects these policies by lobbying the state executive and legislative branches while working in conjunction with regulatory agencies. Directors of the OAA Board, along with members and volunteers, regularly testify during committee hearings and attend meetings to advance our strategic priorities.

OAA works hard to represent you and ensure the economic vibrancy of our airports. Based on your feedback, the following pages set forth our upcoming public policy priorities in the biennial OAA Public Policy Agenda.

# Ohio Aviation means...

## Impacts

Investing in Ohio aviation means impacts to the entire state. In the latest study, Ohio's commercial service airports generate over 105,000 jobs, \$3.5 billion in annual payroll, and \$11.4 billion in annual economic output. However, federal and state resources for Ohio's airport passenger terminals has declined 45 percent in the last decade. Here are ways to increase the impact for the health of Ohio:

### Aviation Fuel Tax Revenue Reform

Reinvest 100 percent of aviation fuel tax revenue back into the Ohio Airport Grant Program. Only approximately 1/3 is reinvested currently.

### Create a Dedicated Aviation Infrastructure Improvement Fund

While we celebrate the \$6,000,000 increase to the Ohio Airport Grant Program that was included in the State Operating FY16-17 and FY 18-19 Budgets, we must understand this is not a guaranteed increase. The struggle to maintain the funding allocation against other competing interests will be a perennial battle for us.

A more permanent solution for our members would be a dedicated fund. This task is a large undertaking and will likely take years to accomplish. The OAA is currently exploring options available to us while studying the political environment needed to affect this kind of change.

### Create a Competitive Commercial Airport Grant Program



The state currently provides little to no direct support to our commercial airports. There is NO program in place to support them with supportive and

sustainable funding. The next Administration should invest in Ohio's commercial airports by implementing these elements:

- i. Open eligibility to all owners of public-use airport that currently provide scheduled passenger air and/or cargo service.
- ii. Award a minimum in capital funding for no less than five terminal improvement projects across the commercial service airports with a required 50% local match. The estimated minimum is \$200 million.
- iii. Open project eligibility to include development of public use areas of the air-

## Aviation Means



port; enhanced highway and transit airport access; aviation training facilities; terminal expansion and rehabilitation; and state-of-the-art boarding concourse and concession areas.

### Create An Air Service Development Fund

Support air carriers through minimum revenue guarantees and marketing assistance to incentivize new international and domestic air service to strengthen Ohio's economic connections to the world. Surrounding states have directly supported incentives that have resulted in new international service to Paris (IND and PIT) and Frankfurt (PIT). The next Administration should invest in Ohio's commercial air service future by:

i. Authorize and appropriate \$15 million annually for an Air Service Development Fund to be administered by Ohio Development Services Agency that would provide minimum revenue guarantees and marketing assistance to air carriers to incentivize new international and domestic air service.

ii. Develop a statewide Air Service Development Board to provide oversight and decision-making over the allocation of incentives from the Air Service Development Fund. Membership on the board shall include representatives from all commercial service airports, economic development officials, aviation employers, and the tourism industry.



### Create Aviation Jobs

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. Specifically, Boeing

### Economic Impact



estimates the aviation industry will need 637,000 commercial pilots and 648,000 mechanics in the next 20 years. These positions are high paying, skilled jobs which require significant investment in training. Many aviation-training facilities in Ohio

are reaching capacity and will require significant investment to accommodate future training needs. The next Administration should make Ohio the premier aviation training location by:

- i. Develop a dedicated pool of capital funding or revolving loan fund (\$15-20 million annually) for aviation training programs at universities, community colleges, and high schools. Schools need access to low-interest capital to improve their infrastructure and facilities to accommodate the future growth of aviation training.
- ii. Develop a statewide grant program of \$15 million annually to reduce the cost of training for residents entering aviation related careers at Ohio universities and community colleges.
- iii. Develop a strategy to attract and retain aviation-related companies to Ohio.

### Other Advocacy Efforts

OAA continues to actively support a change in the law that would allow **county prosecutors** the option to advise airport authority boards on legal matters.

OAA continues to actively supports the creation of the **Ohio Broadband Development Grant Program** to help those members in rural communities that are at an economic development disadvantage due to poor connectivity afforded larger communities.

# 2018 Ohio Aviation Association Members\*

AKRON FULTON INTL  
AKRON-CANTON REGIONAL  
ASHLAND COUNTY  
BOLTON FIELD/Columbus  
BURKE LAKEFRONT/Cleveland  
CAMBRIDGE MUNICIPAL  
CARROLL COUNTY-TOLSON/Carrollton  
CINCINNATI WEST/Harrison  
CLERMONT COUNTY/Batavia (Sporty's)  
CLEVELAND-HOPKINS INTL  
CLINTON FIELD/Wilmington  
COLUMBIANA COUNTY/East Liverpool  
DARKE COUNTY/Versailles  
DAYTON-WRIGHT BROTHERS  
DELAWARE MUNICIPAL  
ERIE-OTTAWA INTL (Port Clinton)  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY/Lancaster  
FINDLAY AIRPORT  
FOSTORIA METROPOLITAN  
FULTON COUNTY/Wauseon  
GALLIA-MEIGS RGNL/Gallipolis  
GREATER PORTSMOUTH REGIONAL  
GRIMES FIELD/Urbana  
HARRISON COUNTY/Cadiz  
HIGHLAND COUNTY/Hillsboro  
HOLMES COUNTY/Millersburg  
HURON COUNTY/Norwalk  
JACKSON COUNTY/James A Rhodes  
JAMES M COX DAYTON INTL  
JEFFERSON COUNTY AIRPARK/Steubenville  
JOHN GLENN COLUMBUS INTL AIRPORT  
KELLEYS ISLAND – Village of  
KENT STATE UNIVERSITY AIRPORT/Kent  
KNOX COUNTY/Mount Vernon  
LAKEFIELD/Celina  
ALLEN COUNTY/Lima  
LORAIN COUNTY REGIONAL  
MADISON COUNTY/London  
MANSFIELD LAHM REGIONAL  
MIAMI UNIVERSITY AIRPORT/Oxford  
MIDDLE BASS

MIDDLETOWN REGIONAL/HOOK FIELD  
MONROE COUNTY/Woodsfield  
NEIL ARMSTRONG/Wapakoneta  
NORTH BASS ISLAND  
NORTHEAST OHIO RGNL/Ashtabula  
OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY AIRPORT  
OHIO UNIVERSITY AIRPORT/Athens  
ORTNER/Wakeman  
PERRY COUNTY/New Lexington  
PIKE COUNTY/Waverly  
PORTAGE COUNTY/Ravenna  
PUT IN BAY  
PUTNAM COUNTY/Ottawa  
RICKENBACKER INTL/Columbus  
SANDUSKY COUNTY REGIONAL/Fremont  
SENECA COUNTY/ Tiffin (Tiffin Aire)  
SIDNEY MUNICIPAL  
SPRINGFIELD-BECKLEY MUNICIPAL  
TOLEDO EXECUTIVE  
TOLEDO EXPRESS  
UNION COUNTY/Marysville  
VAN WERT COUNTY  
VINTON COUNTY/McArthur  
WARREN COUNTY/JOHN LANE/Lebanon  
WAYNE COUNTY/Wooster  
WILLIAMS COUNTY/Bryan  
WILMINGTON AIR PARK/Wilmington  
WOOD COUNTY/Bowling Green  
YOUNGSTOWN-WARREN RGNL  
ZANESVILLE MUNICIPAL

## **AVIATION EDUCATION PARTNERS:**

BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY  
KENT STATE UNIVERSITY  
OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY  
PITTSBURGH INSTITUTE OF AERONAUTICS  
SINCLAIR COLLEGE

## **Numerous business partners!**

*\*As of the date of this printing*

# Ohio Aviation Association Political Action Committee

## **What We Are and What We Do:**

The Ohio Aviation Association Political Action Committee (OAA PAC) is a member-driven non-partisan group committed to advancing the interests of the aviation industry by supporting and reinforcing relationships with those candidates and elected officials who support and promote aviation.

Our goal is to provide our members a unified voice by educating key decisions makers on issues important to the aviation industry. Your contributions to the OAA PAC allows us to support the efforts of those who will advance our shared priorities in aviation.

## **How You Can Help:**

You can contribute through a few ways: 1) Attendance at our OAA-PAC events (see our online calendar for upcoming events); or 2) Sending a personal check (or a business check if you are another PAC, sole proprietor, partnership or association formed under the State of Ohio). Please mail your checks to: OAA PAC, PO Box 340257, Columbus, OH 43234-0257.

## **Additional Information:**

The Ohio Aviation Association Political Action Committee (OAA PAC) is an affiliated political action committee of the OAA under section 3517.082 and 3517.01 C 8 of the Revised Code. The OAA PAC is not affiliated with any political party and is organized for the purpose of receiving voluntary contributions from employees of member organizations, other political action committees, or separate segregated funds and to raise funds to contribute to candidates, ballot measures, and political committees that support and promote aviation. The OAA PAC is not a federal PAC. The Ohio Aviation Association provides minimal administrative support to the OAA PAC.

Generally speaking, individuals, limited liability companies (LLCs), partnerships, sole proprietorships, another PAC, and some associations formed under the State of Ohio, can legally make contributions to a PAC. If you are unsure, please check with the State of Ohio Campaign Finance Department. Contributions must include itemized allocations by partners in partnerships or members of a LLC. Ohio law prohibits other corporate political contributions. Anonymous contributions cannot be accepted.

Donations are not tax-deductible and will be used for political purposes. The State of Ohio limits annual contributions. Please refer to the Campaign Finance Department for additional detail for those contribution limits. You may choose not to participate without fear of reprisal. You will not be favored or disadvantaged by reason of the amount of your contribution or decision not to contribute.



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