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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 17, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write today in support of the application from the Lehigh Valley International Airport (ABE) to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Multimodal Projects Discretionary Grant Program (MPDG) for its Northside Logistics and Cargo Complex (NLCC). I urge you to give this application full and fair consideration.

Located in Hanover Township in Lehigh and Northampton Counties in Pennsylvania, the Lehigh Valley International Airport is a major economic asset for the Lehigh Valley, one of the Commonwealth's fastest growing regions. I understand that ABE handles the second most cargo volume of any airport in Pennsylvania, having seen a 31.7-million-pound increase in annual cargo volume over the last four years. ABE leaders have told me that their forecasts show even greater expected growth, from 232 million pounds in 2021 to an anticipated 346 million pounds per-year by 2040.

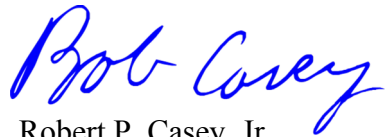
ABE officials have stressed that the airport and its existing cargo apron cannot keep pace with this projected demand. To increase airport capacity, I understand that ABE is seeking INFRA funds to undertake a major cargo project that will allow the airport to meet demand, create jobs, support regional and national supply chains, and foster economic growth.

I am told that the NLCC project will involve the construction of a new, on-airport cross dock facility, centralized aircraft and truck parking, road and intersection improvements, a fuel storage facility, and a direct truck-to-aircraft loading apron. I understand that this project would result in major improvements in day-to-day operations and the movement of freight, including bringing cargo closer to warehouses, the elimination of off-site truck staging, and reduced driving distances.

ABE officials have stressed that the airport's location at the nexus of several major freight corridors, including Interstate 80, Interstate 81, Interstate 78, and Interstate 476, will make the impacts of this project not just local, but truly national. They added, however, that without funding from the MPDG program, this project will not be able to move forward and these benefits will not be realized.

Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration. Please include this letter in the official record of the application. Consistent with all applicable laws, rules, and regulations, I also respectfully request that you keep me informed of the status of this grant application. Finally, if you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to contact me or my staff at (202) 224-6324.

Sincerely,



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator