

Enrolled No. R161-002

RESOLUTION



File No. 17-18/004

- SUPPORTING CONTINUED FUNDING OF THE ESSENTIAL AIR SERVICE (EAS) PROGRAM -

WHEREAS, President Trump's FY18 Budget eliminates funding for the Essential Air Service (EAS) program which provides funding for airline service to the Chippewa Valley; and

WHEREAS, EAS is a federal program enacted to guarantee air service to small communities in the U.S., served by certificated airlines prior to airline deregulation to maintain a minimal level of scheduled air service that otherwise would not be profitable; and

WHEREAS, the EAS program provides access to the national air transportation system in 173 communities in 36 states; and

WHEREAS, approximately 30% of the airports in the United States receiving airline service are getting the service under the EAS program; and

WHEREAS, the EAS program is user fee funded with a portion of the funds coming from aviation overflight fees and the remaining funds coming from the Aviation Trust Fund which is funded through aviation user fees; and

WHEREAS, access to the national transportation system for scheduled air service through the Chippewa Valley Regional Airport is essential for attracting and maintaining businesses to the Chippewa Valley.

WHEREAS, currently The Chippewa Valley Regional Airport has daily scheduled airline service to Chicago; and

WHEREAS, the Chippewa Valley Regional Airport served 43,578 total passengers in 2016; and

WHEREAS, loss of scheduled air service will negatively impact the ability of the Chippewa Valley Regional Airport to support private and business aircraft operations since the amount of user fee funded capital improvements the airport receives is tied to the number of passenger enplanements; and

WHEREAS, if Chippewa Valley Regional Airport drops below 10,000 passengers per year the Federal Aviation Administration funding for airport capital improvements will drop from \$1 million per year to \$150,000 per year; and

WHEREAS, air passengers utilizing the Chippewa Valley Regional Airport in 2014 spent \$4.3 million and supported 70 additional jobs in the Chippewa Valley, with a payroll of \$1.3 million; and

WHEREAS, the direct effect of the airport on the Chippewa Valley economy in 2014 totaled 157 employees, a payroll of \$7.8 million and \$41.6 million in economic output.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors that it supports continued funding for the EAS program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors directs the county clerk to forward this resolution to President Donald Trump, Congressmen Ron Kind and Sean Duffy, and Speaker of the House Paul Ryan, Senators Tammy Baldwin and Ron Johnson and Governor Scott Walker and the Wisconsin Counties Association.

ADOPTED: April 18, 2017

Janet K. Loomis
County Clerk