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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-3226

February 27, 2012

Mr. Michael Huerta, Acting Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 1022
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Acting Administrator Huerta,

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss the Niagara Falls International Airport (NFIA) and the Runway 10L-28R Rehabilitation project. I was encouraged by our recent conversation regarding the forthcoming funds from the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Airport improvement Program, and I would like to reiterate my request that the FAA take all appropriate measures to expedite the process and release of these funds for the project.

It is my understanding the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority (NFTA) has received an Award Concurrence Letter from FAA stating the issuance of a contract for the project once certain documents are submitted. After the items have been received, reviewed and approved by FAA, NFTA will be given authorization to issue a Notice to Proceed (NTP) allowing them to commence with the associated construction work. Once the submission of items by the NFTA is completed, I respectfully ask your agency to expedite the process and release funding for the project. I believe this project is integral to NFIA and remain hopeful FAA will complete their internal process ahead of schedule.

NFIA has a tremendous economic impact on the Western New York Region and the completion of the main runway project will attract new and expanded investments. Recently, I was a strong supporter of the NFTA's proposal for \$970,000 from New York State for the creation of a comprehensive and sustainable Master Plan for the airport. The master plan will be the blueprint for decades of sustainable economic development in and around the airport.

In only three years, NFIA's passenger count has increased from 1,000 to 200,000 per year. According to the 2010 New York State Department of Transportation Economic Impacts Report, NFIA has an annual economic impact of \$158 million and an employment impact of 2,000 jobs. NFIA serves a market of 9.6 million people from Toronto, Canada to Erie, Pennsylvania and is located within 500 miles of 55 percent of the United States population and 62 percent of the Canadian population; NFIA is well positioned to be an international gateway. The economic activity around the airport is noticeable and an evolving airport will attract more customers, regional tourism revenues, and have an increased positive impact on the region.

As I work with local, state and national partners to revitalize Western New York's economy, I hope you will give my request full consideration and I look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kathleen C. Hochul". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K' and a distinct 'C' and 'H'.

Kathleen C. Hochul
Member of Congress