

May 19, 2026

The Honorable Sam Graves
Chair
Committee on Transportation
and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rick Larsen
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation
and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Graves and Ranking Member Larsen:

On behalf of the American Association of Airport Executives, I am writing to voice our strong support for provisions in H.R. 8870, the BUILD America 250 Act, that would help airports finance critical infrastructure projects and authorize funds to assist qualified airports prepare for upcoming major sporting events. We appreciate you including these welcome provisions in your surface transportation reauthorization bill.

U.S. airports have significant infrastructure funding needs. According to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), airports have \$67.5 billion in eligible and justified development projects between 2025 and 2029 -- or \$13.5 billion annually. Annual funding needs exceed \$173.9 billion over the same period or \$35 billion annually when factoring in other important infrastructure projects that are not eligible for federal funding.

That is far more than the approximately \$4 billion that airports receive annually from the Airport Improvement Program and the \$3.9 billion that airports collect annually from Passenger Facility Charges (PFCs) – local user fees that have eroded in value due to an artificial cap and construction cost inflation. To make matters worse, most airports have already pledged their PFC revenue for existing projects for years into the future.

Considering those limited federal resources and local funds, we commend you for including a provision in the America 250 Act that would restore and extend the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) for airports. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act expanded the TIFIA program to allow airports to have access to federal credit assistance. Unfortunately, that option expired on September 30, 2025, cutting off a valuable financing tool for airports.

We are also pleased that the surface transportation reauthorization bill includes transportation assistance for airports, other state and local government entities, and metropolitan planning organizations dealing with the Olympics, Paralympics, and FIFA World Cup events. This proposal would help airports prepare for the challenges related to these upcoming international sporting

events and ensure that the United States is prepared to accommodate the influx of passengers safely and efficiently.

Thank you for including these welcome airport provisions in the BUILD America 250 Act. We urge you to those adopt these provisions as soon as possible and take other steps to help airports build critical infrastructure projects that enhance aviation safety.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Todd Hauptli". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "T" and a stylized "H".

Todd Hauptli
President and CEO
American Association of Airport Executives