

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 14, 2019

Daniel K. Elwell
Acting Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Acting Administrator Elwell,

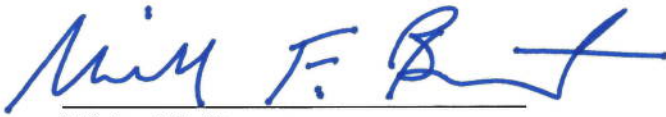
The Grand Junction Regional Airport (GJT), located in Grand Junction, Colorado, has submitted two applications for Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Supplemental Airport Improvement Program (AIP) funding to improve their facilities and better serve our constituents in the area.

The Grand Junction Regional Airport is seeking funding for the construction of a new cargo ramp at a cost of \$22 million to support the 4.5 million pounds of cargo handled annually. Currently, the airport also handles approximately 100 diverted flights per year, which causes congestion in the terminal. Airport officials also anticipate that soon cargo will begin arriving in larger planes in order to maximize fuel costs. The new location for cargo will move operations away from the terminal to allow expansion opportunities for both cargo and commercial traffic.

The airport is also seeking \$40 million to help support the runway program, which is the highest priority for the airport. The current main airport runway was constructed in 1958 and requires updating to meet current standards. All federal funding from the FAA for the next ten to fifteen years allocated to the airport will be used to replace the runway and maintain the existing supporting airfield pavement at an approximate cost of \$145 million. It has been projected that additional funding at this stage will help reduce project costs by an estimated twenty percent, as well as generate 520 jobs in rural Western Colorado, an area that only recently emerged from the recession.

We respectfully request your full and fair consideration of the Grand Junction Regional Airport's applications for FAA Supplemental AIP funding. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Cory Gardner
United States Senator



Scott R. Tipton
Member of Congress