



February 6, 2024

Senator Rick Billinger  
Chair, Senate Ways and Means Committee  
Room 548-S, Statehouse  
Topeka, KS 66612

Re: Senate Bill 272

Dear Chairman Billinger and Committee Members:

The Chamber of Lawrence encourages you to pass Senate Bill 272 which was introduced in last year's legislative session by Senator Claeys. Senate Bill 272 would increase funding for the Kansas Airport Improvement Program (KAIP). Funding for this program has been statutorily set at \$5 million dollars annually since 2013 and is no longer adequate to fund the needs of Kansas airports. This program is administered by the Kansas Department of Transportation Division of Aviation and provides Kansas airports with a funding source for projects that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Airport Improvement Program does not typically fund but are of critical importance to Kansas airports.

In 2023 KAIP grant funds were used to help fund repairs and needed taxi lane improvements around the t-hangar units at Lawrence Regional Airport. A KAIP grant also has been used to fund a study that looked at the various options and costs associated with expansion of our primary runway. In 2024, a KAIP grant is funding the update of the airport master plan. These are all examples of projects that are vital to the Lawrence Regional Airport which would not have been possible without KAIP funding.

We support the position taken by the Kansas Association of Airports (KAA) in regards to SB 272, which would increase the level of annual funding for KAIP projects to \$15 million per year. This increase will help with the backlog of important infrastructure needs at airports statewide.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Lowe, IOM  
President/CEO