



March 2, 2016

Re: Gove County Healthcare Endowment Foundation's Airport

Dear Committee Members:

As family physicians who serve the citizens of Gove County and many of those surrounding, we are pleased to enthusiastically support the project brought forth by the Gove County Healthcare Endowment Foundation to develop and build an airport and runway for our community.

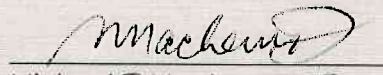
Quinter is home to an award winning regional medical center. Gove County Medical Center and Bluestem Medical draw patients from counties as far away as Rooks, Russell, Decatur, Sherman and Scott to name a few. Situated in the farm belt and along Interstate 70, we treat a significant number of trauma and critical patients that often require a higher level of care than we are able to provide. We must utilize air ambulance services to transport these patients to care facilities in Wichita, Kansas City, and occasionally even Denver and Kearney for higher levels of care.

Unfortunately thus far, air transport has been a complex endeavor depending on ambulance availability and weather conditions. Getting a critical patient to a fixed wing aircraft has often required 50 mile jaunts to Oakley or Hays to meet planes that cannot land on our meager grass runway. The inefficiency of this transport process leads frequently to nerve-racking delays in patient care and, we fear, could ultimately affect a tragic outcome.

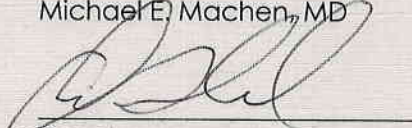
We humbly ask your consideration of this deserving project. As we can offer many testimonials detailing our transport experiences, please do not hesitate to contact us if you require further information.

In addition, we support the sales tax exemption and the property tax exemption bills for the Quinter Airport Project, which Gove County Healthcare Endowment Foundation requested for their airport project.

Sincerely,


Michael E. Machen, MD


Victor M. Nemecek, MD


Douglas J. Gruenbacher, MD


Shelly L. Gruenbacher, MD


Jill A. Stewart, MD