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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

www.posey.house.gov

WASHINGTON OFFICE:

2150 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-3671
FAX: (202) 225-3516

MAIN DISTRICT OFFICE:

2725 JUDGE FRAN JAMIESON WAY, BLDG. C
MELBOURNE, FL 32940
(321) 632-1776
FAX: (321) 639-8595

DISTRICT OFFICE:

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY ADMIN. BLDG. A
(772) 226-1701

DISTRICT OFFICE:

BREVARD COUNTY GOVERNMENT OFFICES
IN TITUSVILLE
(321) 383-6090

March 29, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
H-305, the Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting \$5,000,000, for the Melbourne Orlando International Airport (MLB) Terminal Upgrades project, located at Melbourne Airport Authority, Melbourne International Airport, One Air Terminal Parkway, Suite 220, Melbourne, FL 32901.

The funding would be used to upgrade the terminal infrastructure to accommodate growth due to new international air service. The project includes a replacement of the HVAC System (\$4,375,555), new Biometric Security System Departure Gates (\$880,000), and sliding doors (\$300,000). Constructed in 1989, MLB terminal urgently needs several critical upgrades to keep up with explosive growth in demand while meeting current code requirements.

Brevard County, the home of the MLB, is growing. Since 2010, Brevard's population has grown by 15.1% and is now the tenth largest county in Florida. Adjacent Indian River County grew by 20.5%. By comparison Miami-Dade County grew by 10.7%. Growth in the Brevard region means increasing demand for many services, and among the services most critical to the quality of life and sustained growth is air transportation. Brevard is home to the Kennedy Space Center and Patrick Space Force Base and these important national missions are also driving new demand for air travel.

MLB is leading Brevard County into a new era of aviation and air travel and is experiencing unprecedented traffic growth as they are welcoming new international air service from three carriers to the United Kingdom, Scotland, and Canada. Because of this, MLB is on pace to more than double its enplanements in 2023. Without upgrades and modifications to the terminal, accommodating this new growth will be possible only with operational inefficiencies. The new air service will result in six 787s being on the ground on peak days starting in May 2023.

Many don't realize that MLB is a critical intermodal link to our nation's popular and growing cruise ship sector. In 2022, Port Canaveral surpassed Miami for the first time as the world's

busiest cruise port, according to the Florida Ports Council (FPC). FPC reported that Port Canaveral's passenger totals were at 4.07 million for the 2022 fiscal year. That compares with 4.02 million for the Port of Miami. People travel to Brevard County from throughout the world to catch the outstanding cruises originating there, and much of the new demand for airport services will come from this burgeoning international market.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because MLB produces national benefits and by serving international cruise customers it improves our balance of payments. As the region becomes a more important destination as well as origin, this project will help sustain an expanding cruise industry, burgeoning NASA and commercial space programs, and efficient regional growth.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 49 U.S.C. 47100 et seq.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely



Bill Posey
Member of Congress