



421 Aviation Way  
Frederick, Maryland 21701

T. 301-695-2000  
F. 301-695-2375

[www.aopa.org](http://www.aopa.org)

July 12, 2012

The Honorable Gary W. Bauer  
The Honorable Joe Hintz  
The Honorable Larry J. Silcox  
Huron County Commission  
180 Milan Avenue  
Norwalk, OH 44857

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of 12, 050 Aircraft Owners & Pilots Association (AOPA) members in the state of Ohio and our 400,000 members nationwide we respectfully request that the Commission sign and forward to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) this year's airport improvement program grant request prior to the August 10, 2012 deadline. We also request that you inform them of your intention to sign by July 13, 2012 so that they can program the necessary funds and the airport will not lose \$150,000 allocated to it in the FY2009 non-primary entitlement cycle.

As you know, this request will secure the necessary federal funding to make needed improvements for continued safe operations at the Norwalk-Huron County Airport. These improvements include drainage improvement work at the west end of the airport, seal coating of the taxiway and ramp surfaces and a resurfacing of Taxiway B, and removal of obstructions at the approach end of Runway 10. Your airport is an important piece of the Huron County transportation infrastructure. As a diligent airport sponsor, the Commission requested specific information from the Airport Authority in order to be able to ensure the federal funding is appropriate for the projects. Additionally, the local bidding process provided you with a local contractor who is ready to begin work on the projects as soon as the FAA authorizes the funding. According to the Airport Authority, local donations and judicious use of the airport's cash reserves will allow the County to benefit without the need to spend County money for the local matching funds in spite of the increase in the local share this year.

Local newspaper reports indicate that the Norwalk-Huron County Airport provides numerous benefits to your communities. These benefits range from companies around and outside the state coming to Norwalk to do business via general aviation aircraft, to the annual aerial applicators who spray your croplands, to the visitors and racers who used the airport for the recent Nationals event at Summit Motorsports Park. Efforts by the Friends of the Huron County Airport to collect data on business use of the airport resulted in documenting 61 different businesses that use the airport and many of them are regular users. Providing a safe and efficient airport for the use of all aeronautical users is a primary responsibility of an airport sponsor. We urge the Commission to submit the grant application to the FAA.

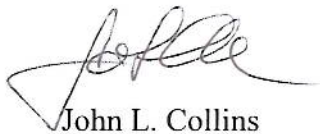
The Honorable Gary W. Bauer  
The Honorable Joe Hintz  
The Honorable Larry J. Silcox  
Page 2  
July 12, 2012

It is our understanding that with the announcement of the impending closure of the Griffing-Sandusky Airport, your airport is poised to receive some of the aircraft formerly based there. We also note that there is the potential to build a new airport elsewhere in Huron or a surrounding county. The improvements in this application will maintain your airport in a safe condition while that process takes place. Currently, building a brand new airport, assuming minimal environmental concerns and easy land acquisition will still take between 7 to 10 years to complete and begin operations.

In conclusion, AOPA suggests that the County has a perfect opportunity to take advantage of federal funding to make needed and necessary improvements to the Norwalk-Huron County airport. We strongly support your submission of the grant application.

Thank you for your consideration of our views on this issue. If we can be of any further assistance, please contact our staff at 301-695-2200.

Sincerely,



John L. Collins  
Manager  
Airport Policy

cc:

Mr. Dennis Sokol, Board President, Huron County Airport Authority