



AIRCRAFT OWNERS AND PILOTS ASSOCIATION

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May 3, 2005

Honorable Maryann Mahaffey
City Council President
City of Detroit
1340 Coleman A. Young Municipal Center
2 Woodward Ave.
Detroit, MI 48226

Dear Madam President:

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) represents the interests of over 400,000 members nationwide including nearly 13,000 who are residents of the State of Michigan. One of the Association's highest priorities is keeping airports and the vital air transportation connection and economic development they provide for communities viable and that the services provided to the public are adequate to meet the needs of not only the community, but of pilots and aircraft owners.

Our members have informed us that the City of Detroit, through the Mayor's proposed 2005-2006 budget, is considering slashing the budget for the Coleman A. Young Airport (DET) by nearly 80%. The city's approved 2004-2005 Red Book for the airport was roughly \$5,663,000 while the 05-06 proposal is a mere \$1,087,000. The Mayor's proposal also suggests reducing the airport staff from 23 current positions to just five people to maintain and operate this vital municipal asset.

We understand that most cities today are facing difficult budget decisions. However, if Council approves the proposed reduction in airport resources, the effect will be devastating on the continued operation and viability of this important local transportation resource. This action could not come at a worse time for your community.

The airport is your gateway to the downtown. We are certain you would not consider restricting the utility of the Interstate Highway 94 off-ramps to your city. The airport is also an off-ramp to your city; an off-ramp that is about to be used soon for two showcase events for the City of Detroit – Major League Baseball's All-Star Game and the NFL Superbowl. In addition to the economic benefits brought by the thousands of spectators who plan to fly into Coleman Young Airport for these events, their experience at the city's "front door" airport will create a lasting impression of Detroit. It is critical that your airport continue to be safe, convenient and 100% full service.

The Coleman A. Young Airport plays a vital and critical role in the nation's air transportation system. With 169-based aircraft and over 83,000 operations per year, this airport has significant economic impact not only on the airport but also within your city.

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A U.S. Department of Commerce economic impact model (RIMMS-II) indicates that for every \$1.00 generated on an airport, another \$1.50 flows to the community surrounding the airport.

We appreciate your considering our views on this matter and trust you will see the tremendous economic value of continuing to provide your total support for this irreplaceable community asset.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Dunn", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Bill Dunn
Vice President
Airports

cc: Federal Aviation Administration
Airports District Office

State of Michigan Aeronautics

Members of the City Council