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Congress of the United States
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COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES AND
GENERAL GOVERNMENT – VICE CHAIRMAN
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VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON CYBERSECURITY
AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION
SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT,
INVESTIGATIONS, AND ACCOUNTABILITY

March 27, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
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 Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am writing to request \$2,500,000 in Fiscal Year 2027 Community Project Funding for the Francis S. Gabreski Airport Obstruction Remediation Project. The entity to receive funding for this project is Suffolk County, located at Francis S. Gabreski Airport, Administration Building #1, Westhampton Beach, New York 11978.

The funding would be used to remove and mitigate airfield obstructions at Francis S. Gabreski Airport that penetrate or affect FAA Part 77 approach and departure surfaces, air traffic control tower line of sight, light signal clearance surfaces, and other airport design surfaces identified through the airport's airspace obstruction analysis and survey. These improvements are necessary to preserve safe runway use, reduce hazards to aircraft operations, and maintain compliance with applicable FAA safety standards and regulations. By addressing these obstructions, the project will help ensure that Gabreski Airport can continue to safely accommodate its current mix of civilian, military, training, emergency response, and VIP operations.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it directly advances aviation safety for pilots, passengers, flight crews, military personnel, airport staff, and the surrounding community. Francis S. Gabreski Airport is a critical regional transportation asset for eastern Long Island and supports the 106th Rescue Wing of the New York Air National Guard, emergency response activity, and local economic activity. Removing and mitigating these obstructions will help preserve the full operational capability of the airport, reduce the risk of operational constraints or safety incidents, and support the continued safe and reliable use of this important public-use airport.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is consistent with purposes authorized under the Airport Improvement Program, including 49 U.S.C. § 47102(3)(A)(i) and 49 U.S.C. § 47102(4), which define airport development to include the removal, lowering, relocation, marking, and lighting of airport hazards and define airport hazards as structures or objects near a public-use airport that obstruct or are hazardous to the landing or taking off of aircraft. The removal or mitigation of obstructions affecting FAA Part 77 surfaces and other protected airport design surfaces constitutes eligible airport development directly tied to aviation safety and the continued safe operation of Francis S. Gabreski Airport.

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

Sincerely,



Nick LaLota
Member of Congress