

On behalf of our collective membership, which represents more than 2,000 members across Southeast Minnesota, we are writing in strong support of Rochester International Airport's (RST) bonding request for runway safety improvements. As you are well aware, a strong regional aviation system is a critical component of a vibrant economy. Our region is no exception. In short, RST, the second busiest airport in the state, produced over \$161 million in economic impact in Rochester and Southeast Minnesota, served over 370,000 passengers, and moved 22.4 tons of cargo in 2018 alone.

RST must continue to fully function for the sake of our region's economic vitality, which is why we urge full funding for the runway 2/20 reconstruction. Unfortunately, this runway has reached the end of its useful life requiring reconstruction, extension, and instrument approach improvements to maintain the essential and uninterrupted service at RST.

We sincerely appreciate the challenge you face in balancing numerous meritorious bonding projects with limited dollars. With that said, we sincerely ask that you evaluate the RST bonding request from the lens of the airport's collective regional and economic impact. Much effort has occurred to grow service and utilization of RST and we urge that you support the RST bonding request in recognition of its significant value across a wide geographic area and its tremendous impact on the regional economy, commerce and the quality of life for hundreds of thousands of Minnesotans.

Thank you very much for your attention to our request for support.



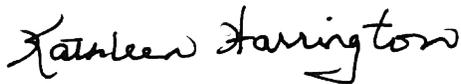
Elaine Hansen
Austin Area Chamber of Commerce



Brad Meier
Owatonna Chamber of Commerce



Kelly Leibold
Pine Island Chamber of Commerce



Kathleen Harrington
Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce



Christie Ransom
Winona Area Chamber of Commerce

Please note members of the coalition may alert media about this letter of support.