

6/11/2003 House Passes FAA Reauthorization

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Legislation Includes Provisions to Benefit Kansas Air Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Jerry Moran today announced that the House passed aviation legislation that includes a number of provisions important to the future of Kansas air service. The "Flight 100 - Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act" reauthorizes the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for the next four years and includes additional funding for smaller airports, more local control over funding and other provisions to keep air service available in Kansas.

"This legislation makes important improvements to benefit the aviation industry in our state, providing for its stability and continued growth," Moran said. "From Emporia to Scott City and all across our state, small community airports can continue to serve our aviation needs."

The FAA reauthorization includes provisions Moran introduced to enhance the Essential Air Service (EAS) Program. This program encourages commercial air service to and from smaller communities. Annual funding for the program will be increased and local officials will have more control over how they can use that EAS funding to better tailor their local air service to their individual needs. Six Kansas airports are currently served by the EAS program - Dodge City, Garden City, Great Bend, Hays, Liberal and Salina.

The legislation also makes improvements to the Airport Improvement Program (AIP) by increasing funding by \$200 million a year. AIP is essential in maintaining our nation's airports - both large and small - as it provides grant funding for maintenance and improvements.

In addition, the legislation increases funding for the contract tower program, which helps improve the safety of our skies by assisting smaller airports in meeting their air traffic control needs.

"Our state and our nation has a sophisticated aviation system, but it's one that has been threatened by terrorism, war, and a slowed economy," Moran said. "In these difficult economic times for our state, it's important to return aviation tax dollars to Kansas to help maintain our local airports."

Moran is a member of the U.S. House Transportation Subcommittee on Aviation.

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