



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0523**

December 19, 2017

The Honorable Michael Huerta  
Administrator  
Federal Aviation Administration  
800 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Administrator Huerta:

I write in support of the application submitted by Kern County Department of Airports for \$500,000 in funding from the Small Community Air Service Development Program (SCASDP) in order to fund a minimum revenue guarantee for service at Meadows Field Airport (BFL) to the State of Texas by either United Airlines or American Airlines.

According to data published in the Official Airline Guides, BFL's capacity has experienced a steady decline of 37.8% over the last decade. Located in the district I represent, the decrease in airline service at BFL has contributed to average air fares that are significantly higher than the national average. As noted in the application, BFL currently offers customers with only 3 destinations from which to choose and the closest alternative airport is 104 miles away.

Bakersfield is the major metropolitan hub in Kern County with significant energy and agriculture industries in the region. Expanding air service will directly benefit both residents and individuals traveling to Bakersfield, Kern County, and the southern San Joaquin Valley. Specifically, securing SCASCP grant funding would enable service from BFL to either Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport or Houston Intercontinental Airport, which would greatly enhance regional, domestic, and international connectivity. Most notably, the funding would provide a more convenient airport location to the more than 800,000 residents of Bakersfield and the surrounding communities. That is why this application enjoys strong support within our local communities and throughout the business community.

Once again, I strongly support Kern County Department of Airports' application for SCASDP grant funding, which would provide residents in our community with air service to either Houston Intercontinental Airport or Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport, both serving as a major connecting hub to a variety of locations. It is my understanding that Kern County Department of Airports' application encompasses the intent of the SCASDP program, which is to assist smaller communities in addressing issues with airfare and air service. I respectfully request your thorough consideration of this important matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,



KEVIN McCARTHY  
House Majority Leader

cc: Ms. Brooke Chapman  
Associate Director  
Office of Aviation Analysis

KOM/bjm