April 28th, 2021

The Honorable David E. Price  The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart
Chairman  Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee  House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Transportation, and Housing and  Subcommittee on Transportation and Housing and
Urban Development, and Related Agencies  Urban Development, and Related Agencies
2358-A Rayburn House Office Building  1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515  Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Price and Ranking Member Diaz-Balart:

I am requesting $1,000,000 for Willard Airport Security Screening Checkpoint Improvements in fiscal year 2022. The entity to receive funding for this project is Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois, located at 352 Henry Administration Building MC-350, 506 South Wright Street, Urbana, IL 61801. The project itself is located at 11 Airport Road, Savoy, IL 61874.

The funding would be used for streamlining Transportation Security Administration (TSA) checkpoint operations by relocating the existing TSA Security Screening Checkpoint to a new location and expanding the checkpoint from one to two lanes. The project also includes all associated infrastructure for the new checkpoint. The airport will demolish unused spaces on the 2nd level of the terminal to make way for the new checkpoint and remove an existing freight elevator adjacent to the project area. Once those items are complete, they will build out a new checkpoint, boundaries, passenger queue area, elevator, and a TSA support office.

The project will enhance Willard’s ability to serve and support the local economy by reducing congestion. Between 2013 and 2018, Willard’s total passenger enplanements grew by nearly 37%. A recently completed Airport Master Plan has indicated that passenger enplanement growth is forecast to continue over the next 20 years. The existing single-lane TSA checkpoint and baggage screening room have remained in their current space-limited locations for nearly 20 years, despite increased passenger traffic. The project will also ensure the airport is compliant with both TSA criteria and modern terminal design standards, all within the same building footprint.

I thank you for your consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,

Rodney Davis
Member of Congress