

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1402

March 19, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307, the Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for South Bend International Airport's Inbound Baggage Modernization Project in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the St. Joseph County Airport Authority, located at 4477 Progress Dr., South Bend, IN 46628.

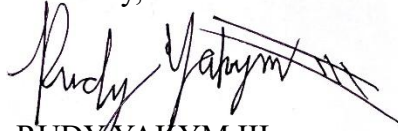
The funding would be used to replace the airport's two current inbound baggage handling devices and add a third device.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the current devices are outdated and well past their useful life, requiring custom-fabricated replacement parts. The open loop configuration creates security vulnerabilities, as bags move from secured to unsecured areas and back. Finally, the current devices cannot accommodate the present or forecasted passenger volume arriving at the airport. They were designed to serve regional jets of 50-70 passengers, but in 2025, more than 1,400 arrivals at the airport carried between 137-200 passengers.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 49 U.S.C. 47100 et seq.

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

Sincerely,



RUDY YAKYM III
Member of Congress