

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3203

June 5, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE, West Building, 9th Floor
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am pleased to write in support of the application submitted by the Ithaca Tompkins International Airport (ITH) to the Small Community Air Service Development (SCASD) program. This critical funding will enable airport administration to bolster ongoing efforts to establish ITH as a regional air service hub by expanding access, enhancing service, and supporting the needs of businesses in the Southern Tier region of New York.

Located in Tompkins County, ITH is a vital part of the region's economy, supporting the travel of many of the area's most prominent employers, including Cornell University. The airport offers a convenient location, just outside the City of Ithaca, and helps service many of the other cities across the region. Historically, ITH has offered passengers a variety of travel and carrier options at competitive rates, all while maintaining the convenience of a smaller airport. However, in 2022 American Airlines eliminated service at ITH and United canceled service to Washington-Dulles (IAD). ITH maintains a solid partnership with both Delta and United, but the diminished travel options pushed enplanements down, limited the airport's capacity to meet the ever-growing needs of the community, and threatened the vitality of this valuable resource. Currently, the airport's offerings have been reduced to two carriers operating a few flights daily to two hubs, respectively.

Funding from SCASD will enable ITH to expand air service by implementing a comprehensive marketing plan and incentive package to facilitate a return of service to IAD. The airport has assembled a consortium of support and commitments from local private sector stakeholders and the Tompkins County government toward air service development. The vast association of community resources demonstrates the unwavering commitment that local leaders have toward creating a vibrant airport and highlights the true value of this project proposal.

Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me or my Grants Coordinator in my Washington DC office at 202-224.6542.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator