



March 3, 2022

***Sent via Email**

The Honorable Representative Lee, Chair
Capital Investment Committee
485 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Support for HF 3203 – Rochester International Airport Bonding Extension

Dear Chair Lee and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Olmsted County Board of Commissioners, I write to express support for the city of Rochester's bonding extension request for runway safety improvements at the Rochester International Airport (RST). The funding has already been secured for this project that is critical for reconstruction, extension, and instrument approach improvements to maintain uninterrupted access for the many critical users of RST. The request is to allow the previously allocated funds to be used throughout the duration of the 7-year project. Completion of this runway safety improvement project is critical for our region.

RST is an economic cornerstone in Minnesota with \$191 million in economic impact supporting the southeast region of the state. RST is working hard to build back pre-pandemic levels of 370,000 annual passengers and continues to provide crucial air service to Southeast Minnesota and border regions of Iowa and Wisconsin.

The Olmsted County Board is fully supportive of the RST runway safety improvement project and thanks the legislature for consideration of this bonding extension request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Thein", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mark Thein, Chair
Olmsted County Board of Commissioners
thein.mark@co.olmsted.mn.us