

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

January 29, 1987

Mr. Donald Engen  
Administrator  
Federal Aviation Administration  
800 Independence Avenue, SW  
Room 1010  
Washington, D.C. 20591

Dear Mr. Engen

We are writing to request your assistance in a matter of great importance to Illinois.

The Decatur Airport has applied for a discretionary grant under the Airport Improvement Program to extend a runway from 6,500 feet to 8,500 feet. This extension is required to meet the needs of regional air cargo operations presently located at the Decatur airport. Currently, heavily loaded air cargo planes often have difficulty taking off on the existing 6,500 foot runway.

After safety improvements and rehabilitation of existing airport facilities, the Federal Aviation Administration has identified airport improvements needed to accommodate existing service and to increase airport capacity as its highest priorities. Without this runway extension, there is a real possibility that regional air cargo operations located at the Decatur Airport will move. Air cargo businesses have expressed an interest in expanding operations at the Decatur airport if improvements are made to existing facilities.

Air cargo operations currently provide employment to approximately 250 persons in Decatur and surrounding communities. With the deterioration of our agricultural and manufacturing economy in recent years, the economic vitality of the area depends on the development of new businesses.

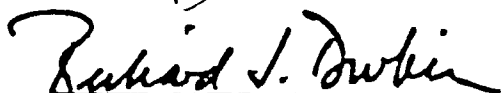
The total cost for the 2,000 foot extension of this runway is estimated to be \$4.1 million. The federal share for this project is approximately \$3.7 million. We appreciate the funding constraints facing the Federal Aviation Administration in the distribution of Airport Improvement Grants. However, we urge you to give this project a high priority in the allocation of FY 1987 discretionary grants.

Your consideration in this matter is very much appreciated.

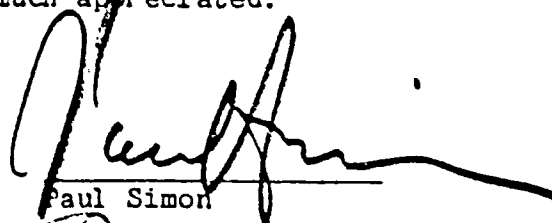
Sincerely,



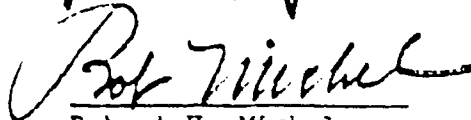
Alan J. Dixon



Richard J. Durbin



Paul Simon



Robert H. Michel

Mr. Engen  
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Dennis Hastert  
Dennis Hastert

Edward Madigan  
Edward Madigan

Lane Evans  
Lane Evans

Ken Gray  
Ken Gray

Henry Hyde  
Henry Hyde

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Harris Fawell  
Harris Fawell

Lynn Martin  
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Terry Bruce  
Terry Bruce

John Porter  
John Porter

Dan Rostenkowski  
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