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### 2-12-09-NORTHEAST OHIO HOUSE DELEGATION MEMBERS ANNOUNCE FUNDS FOR AKRON-CANTON AIRPORT

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#### **UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

*Thursday, February 12, 2009*

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U.S. Congresswoman Betty Sutton: Erin Donar (202) -225-3401

#### **NORTHEAST OHIO HOUSE DELEGATION MEMBERS BOCCIERI, RYAN, SUTTON ANNOUNCE \$11.5 MILLION FOR AKRON-CANTON AIRPORT**

#### ***Federal Funds Will Be Used To Extend Runway at CAK***

WASHINGTON, DC – U.S. Congressman John Boccieri (D-16) with House and Ohio delegation colleagues Congressman Tim Ryan (D-17) and Congresswoman Betty Sutton (D-13) today announced \$11.5 million has been awarded to the Akron-Canton Airport (CAK) by the U.S. Department of Transportation. The funds will be used to expand runway 5/23 at the airport.

“Expanding the runway will help larger jets access the airport and will create jobs,” said Boccieri. “The airport serves as a critical economic engine for our part of Ohio and I’m pleased that funding was secured for this project.”

“Akron-Canton Airport is a crucial transportation hub for Northeast Ohio and key to our efforts to turn our region into the ‘Techbelt,’” said Congressman Ryan. “As the airport grows, our region will become better equipped to attract companies, investment and the good jobs of the future.”

Congresswoman Sutton said, “This grant is wonderful news for the Akron-Canton airport. Funding for crucial runway improvements, such as this one, will contribute to the growth of this important transportation hub for our region.”

Rick McQueen, President and CEO of CAK was pleased with the funding. “We are so pleased that, with the help of our Northeast Ohio Congressional delegation and the FAA, we are able to continue work on our vital runway 5/23 runway extension and safety upgrade,” McQueen said. “The timing couldn’t be better, as the grant will help us

optimize the investment in our airfield by taking advantage of a full construction season. Once complete in 2010, the new runway capacity will allow for nonstop flights to the West Coast, Canada and Mexico, making CAK an even more strategic asset to the region's vital transportation infrastructure."


Last month, Bocchieri, Ryan, and Sutton were on hand with former Congressman Ralph Regula at CAK to celebrate the addition of a non-stop US Airways flight from Canton to Washington Reagan National Airport.

Bocchieri serves on the Aviation Subcommittee of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. The Committee just began work on a new FAA Reauthorization bill that is expected to be completed by the end of March. This bill would further help fund airport construction and modernization nationwide.



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