

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205

June 20, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue South East  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I write in support of the application submitted by Ithaca Tompkins International Airport for funding from the Small Community Air Service Development (SCASD) Grant Program through the U.S. Department of Transportation. This funding will be used to help re-establish air service to Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD).

The Ithaca Tompkins International Airport (ITH) provides air services to a population of nearly 220,000 residents between Tompkins County and a 45-minute catchment area. ITH serves as a gateway to Ithaca, New York, and important higher education and industrial sites, in particular the Cornell University community. In 2022, American Airlines severed ties with ITH, leaving the airport with only two airline carriers, each providing direct service to one destination. Meanwhile, population and business activity in Tompkins County continues to grow, contributing to an increased demand for air services.

The requested funding will be used to incentivize service to IAD. Re-establishing this connection to Washington, D.C. is a high priority for area employers and the regional economy. ITH plays an essential role in Tompkins County's economy and is a vital community asset to residents for business and personal travel. With this funding, ITH will help bolster area economic development and ensure that regional transportation needs are met. Re-establishing air service to this destination will provide immense benefit to the economies of Ithaca, Tompkins County, and the Southern Tier.

I ask that you please give this application your full consideration. If you have any questions or desire further information, please do not hesitate to contact my staff member, Abimael Jimenez, at (202) 224-4451.

Sincerely,



Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator