



February 26, 2009

Senator Richard Lugar  
United States Senate  
306 Senate Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Lugar:

As Congress begins the Fiscal Year 2010 Appropriations process, I respectfully submit for your consideration the following Airport Snow and Ice Control Equipment Project.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) recently issued a Safety Alert for Operators commenting that between December 17, 2008 and January 18, 2009 sixteen air carrier and corporate aircraft veered off airport paved surfaces because of poor reporting of braking conditions. Every year the FAA emphasizes the importance of providing continuous timely accurate runway condition reports to pilots. The requested Airfield Snow Blower and Continuous Friction Measurement Equipment (CFME) will provide FWA with the equipment we need to address potentially hazardous pavement conditions and more accurately report our surface conditions to pilots. By doing so, we will be in compliance with FAA requirements that pertain to airport snow & ice control and condition reporting.

**Airfield Snow Blower** -- The proposed Airfield Snow Blower will replace an outdated blower that has surpassed its useful life and is no longer reliable. Using an FAA formula, FWA should have six snow blowers -- we currently only have three. All airports that receive commercial passenger air carriers or airline service are required to follow Federal Aviation Regulation (FAR) Part 139, which requires each airport to write/maintain a Snow and Ice Control Plan. Furthermore, FAA requires airports to list priorities for snow and ice removal and control; FWA's priority area consists of the primary runway, parallel taxiway, several taxiway connectors, air carrier ramp, Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting emergency service access roads, NAVAIDs, Southwest and Northwest Perimeter Road.

**Continuous Friction Measurement Equipment** -- In addition to removing snow in a timely manner, FAR Part 139 requires airports to assess and report the conditions of the airfield pavement to their users. One of the critical items that needs to be reported is the characteristics of the braking ability, which is measured by specialized equipment known as Continuous Friction Measurement Equipment. The CFME devices are the preferred equipment and are recommended for measuring friction characteristics of pavement surfaces covered with frozen contaminants. Likewise CFME is recommended for use at airports that have significant turbojet aircraft operations, like Fort Wayne International. CFMEs provide continuous graphic record of the pavement surface friction characteristics, which serves as valuable data needed by airport operators and pilots.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me directly. I look forward to working with you and your dedicated staff on this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Richardson", with a large, loopy flourish extending to the right.

Torrance A. Richardson, A.A.E.  
Executive Director of Airports  
Fort Wayne-Allen County Airport Authority

cc: LeAnne Gibbs, Projects Director