SIOUX FALLS
REGIONAL AIRPORT

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House State Affairs Committee

Testimony – SB 76

Good morning, Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee. My name is Dan Letellier, Executive Director of the Sioux Falls Regional Airport, and I'm here in support of SB76.

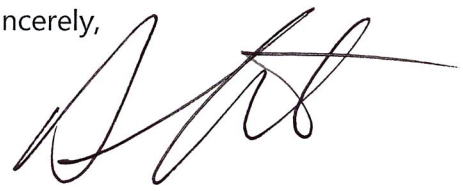
The Sioux Falls Regional Airport is a key economic engine, generating more than $900 million annually in economic impact. Passenger volumes continue to climb -averaging 3.5% annual growth over two decades and nearly 6% in recent years-resulting in record enplanements in eight of the last ten. With 63% of South Dakota's commercial air travelers relying on our airport, existing facilities are increasingly strained.

To meet current and future demand, we began construction in August 2025 on the first phase of a new concourse and terminal apron, a $70 million investment. Planning is underway for a second phase, estimated at $50 million, which will expand seating, enhance concessions, and provide the infrastructure required for an international gate and Customs and Border Protection facility. SB 76 is a critical component of the funding strategy. A low-interest loan would help us complete this work and accommodate projected growth over the next 15 years.

This legislation will support essential infrastructure at the two airports that provide more than 95% of South Dakota's commercial air service. Rapid passenger growth has created capacity challenges that must be addressed – just as the State would expand a highway to meet increased traffic.

I respectfully request your support for SB 76 to ensure South Dakota's primary commercial airports can continue meeting the State's transportation and economic needs.

Sincerely,



Dan Letellier
Executive Director, Sioux Falls Regional Airport