

Thune-Led Federal Aviation Administration Reauthorization

Topline Wins for South Dakota:

- The FAA bill continues funding to the Essential Air Service program from FY2018-2023, ensuring small communities continue to receive air service.
- Allows for flexibility, while preserving safety, in state construction of airfield pavement by directing the FAA to allow the use of highway specifications for airfield pavement construction for certain airports if requested by the state.
- Directs the FAA to schedule the administrator's review of airport construction projects for cold weather states as early as possible and provide an update to Congress on the effectiveness of the prioritization and review.
- Recognizing the needs of smaller communities, directs that if there are any additional funds for Airport Improvement Program, at least 50 percent of the funds are to go toward smaller airports.
- The FAA is directed to provide assistance to a state, upon its request, by providing technical assistance in developing standards for pavement at non-primary public-use airports.
- Directs FAA to allow the purchase of enhanced weather observation systems, regardless of benefit-cost ratio, for systems at general aviation airports that will be used to assist in regional emergency needs.

TSA Wins for South Dakota:

In addition to generally making traveling safer and easier, the bill specifically:

- Allows TSA to acquire more explosives detection canines to protect the traveling public.
- Creates a working group to develop best practices to better secure public areas from terrorist threats, including defending against vehicle-based attacks.
- Directs TSA to implement a process for travelers to seek redress when they feel they have been wrongly treated.
- Directs TSA to establish a ready deployment force to augment homeland security operations where and when needed.
- Ensures truck drivers and other carriers can more easily obtain the required documentation for port entry.

- Directs TSA to increase the number and amount of Law Enforcement Officer (LEO) Reimbursement Program awards and authorizes appropriations of \$55 million for fiscal years 2019-2021, which is \$10 million over current levels. Smaller airports, like those in Sioux Falls and Rapid City, rely on the program to staff police at security checkpoints, as required by federal law, but the fiscal year 2018 and fiscal year 2019 budget requests proposed that the program be eliminated, and TSA's reimbursement rate has declined dramatically over the past decade.
- Directs TSA to establish a pilot program, in partnership with airport directors, to implement and evaluate the use of automated exit lane technology at small-hub and non-hub airports.
- Requires TSA to expand PreCheck program enrollment opportunities by requiring start-to-finish online or mobile enrollment options, which would enable rural populations to participate in the program and receive expedited airport checkpoint screening. Currently, there are only two enrollment locations in the state of South Dakota.
- Incentivizes and makes it easier for airports to participate in TSA's Screening Partnership Program, which enables airports like Sioux Falls to opt out of TSA screening services and receive screening from a private company instead.
- Requires GAO to study and report to Congress on whether TSA allocates its resources appropriately, based on risk across all sizes of airports. TSA currently focuses the majority of its resources, including explosives detection canine teams and new screening technologies like computed tomography and biometrics, at the nation's busiest airports.

Maritime Wins for South Dakota:

- Directs the Coast Guard to assess what assets and personnel are required to better enforce border security and interdict illegal smuggling.