



**324 N. Kansas Ave.
Liberal, KS 67905
P: (620) 626-2201**

February 14, 2024

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the City of Liberal, thank you for this opportunity to provide written testimony in support of S.B. 272, AN ACT concerning public use general aviation airports; increasing the transfer from the state highway fund to the public use general aviation airport development fund; amending K.S.A. 2022 Supp. 75-5061 and repealing the existing section.

S.B. 272 is needed legislation that would increase the yearly transfer from the state highway fund to the public use general aviation airport development fund from \$5,000,000 to \$18,000,000. This would bolster our state's public airports and allow for much-needed improvements, expansions, and repairs. Now is an especially opportune moment to increase funding as there are also federal dollars to combine with to allow for more impactful projects.

The immediate effect to the Liberal Mid-America Regional Airport, one of only 11 cargo airports in the state, would be the opportunity to relocate the Aircraft Rescue & Fire Fighting building and improve navigational aids, projects that have become necessary as the airport continues to grow. In the future, this increase in funding could allow for more land to be purchased and runways to be lengthened to allow for larger aircraft.

For these points, we ask for your support of S.B. 272 and thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully yours,

Nathanial Blank
Government Affairs, City of Liberal