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House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development

April 9, 2025

Good Morning Chairman Womack and Ranking Member Clyburn. Thank you for providing an opportunity to testify before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development for Fiscal Year 2026. As a Member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I have a special appreciation for the work that you do.

William J. Hughes FAA Technical Center

The FAA Reauthorization of 2024 codified South Jersey's William J. Hughes FAA Technical Center for Advanced Aerospace in Title 49 Section 106 of the U.S. Code. This historic win for South Jersey expanded the Technical Center's role and responsibilities within the FAA. We need to make smart investments to support this expanded mission.

Last year, the Committee drafted a FY25 bill that included \$62 million for the Technical Center's Laboratories and Infrastructure sustainment. This

year, I am requesting that the committee continue this momentum by investing the same amount into Disaster Resiliency, Civil Systems and Electrical Systems with funds from the **Facilities and Equipment Account**:

- \$6 million for **Disaster Resiliency of Critical National Airspace Systems** would upgrade this “Priority One” infrastructure to enhance the Critical Power Distribution system, provide cooling for essential equipment, and ensure resilient data transmission.
- \$29 million for **William J. Hughes Technical Center Civil Systems Sustainment**. These funds will design and construct a water supply system and underground utility for all tenants at the Technical Center, including the Atlantic City Airport.
- \$27 million for **William J. Hughes Technical Center Electrical Systems Sustainment**. These funds will design and construct a replacement electrical system to supply power to the Airport Operations Area, covering all airfield lighting and navigational aids.

I also request that the Committee provide **\$10 million from the Research, Engineering and Development Account for an Emerging Technologies Accelerator**. This provides a pathway for development, demonstration, and transfer of technology that can lead to a tangible operational improvement to the aviation infrastructure.

My final request related to the Technical Center is for increased technical personnel levels. I have provided additional information to the Committee staff.

Community Project Funding

The first request is for \$3 million to construct a **Dental Hygiene School** at Atlantic Cape Community College from the EDI Account. There is a serious need for dental hygienists in my area. I spent my entire private career as a dentist and this project is personally important to me. It also has a non-federal match of over \$2 million from the Atlantic County government, who is contributing additional construction funds as well as equipment. This is my top request across all projects and is a resubmission from FY25.

The second request is for \$3.5 million dollars in economic development funds to Buena Township to fund **Emergency Shelter Water Infrastructure**. This project will design and build an expanded water and sewer connection into a local school auditorium. The school was used during Superstorm Sandy as a shelter for hundreds of people.

The third request is for \$2.5 million to design and prepare a site for an **Aviation Maintenance Training Academy** from the EDI account. This project will train generations of much-needed aviation maintenance workers. This project is supported by the United States Air Force and has matching non-federal funds from private sector partners who are interested in recruiting from this facility. This is a resubmission from FY25