



LANSING REGIONAL CHAMBER

We Work Relentlessly to Help Businesses **Connect, Grow and Thrive.**

April 18, 2025

U.S. Senator Elissa Slotkin
291 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

U.S. Senator Gary Peters
Hart Senate Office Building, Suite 724
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Passenger Boarding Bridges Funding Request for Capital Region International Airport (LAN)

Dear Senator Slotkin and Senator Peters,

I am writing to express our strong support for the Capital Region Airport Authority's (CRAA) FY2026 congressionally directed spending request for new passenger boarding bridges (PBBs) at the Capital Region International Airport (LAN). This is a critical and needed infrastructure investment for both the region and the state, and this project will help address necessary upgrades at LAN that are required to improve functionality, accessibility, energy efficiency, and sustainability.

The Capital Region International Airport serves as a vital transportation hub connecting the state's capital region to the world. It plays a crucial role in facilitating travel for residents, businesses, and the entire mid-Michigan community. To ensure continued efficiency and reliability of the airport's facilities, and to maintain its standard of operational excellence for passengers and tenants, the replacement of all six passenger boarding bridges that serve the passenger terminal is imperative.

Currently, the oldest PBB, which was installed in 2005, is inoperable. The remaining five PBBs, all of which were refurbished between 2006 and 2016, require constant maintenance and repair and have reached the end of their useful lives. The PBBs have incurred over \$200,000 in repair costs since 2019 alone. Replacement of all the bridges will reduce operational impacts and delays caused by unplanned maintenance issues and down time required to make the repairs, and will also help to ensure safe, reliable, and efficient passenger access between aircraft and the terminal building. In addition, new PBBs will also provide ADA compliant access between the aircraft and the terminal for persons of all abilities – including military veterans, the elderly, and anyone who may be facing mobility issues or challenges.

I strongly urge you to support the CRAA's passenger boarding bridge funding request for LAN to address this critical infrastructure need. Investing in new PBBs at LAN will not only enhance the safety and convenience of air travel for passengers but will also contribute to the economic vitality and growth of the region while ensuring that the airport remains a vital piece of Michigan's transportation infrastructure.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your consideration of this request for this important project that will benefit our community and the traveling public.

Sincerely,

Tim Daman
President & CEO
Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce