



February 18, 2025

The Honorable Ann H. Rest
Chair, Senate Taxes Committee
Minnesota State Senate
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Capitol, Room 328
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: S.F. 1027 (Hauschild/Lang/Hoffman/Putnam) – Certain airport property tax exemption provisions modifications.

Dear Chair Rest & Members of the Minnesota Senate Taxes Committee:

My name is William Towle, and I am the Executive Director of the St. Cloud Regional Airport Authority. I am writing today in support of Senate File 1027, which would extend a property tax exemption for airport hangars used as a hangar for the storage, repair, or manufacturing of aircraft or to provide aviation goods, services, or facilities to the airport or public.

Under current law, at an airport in a city with a population over 50,000, when property is leased by a private individual, association, or corporation, the property becomes taxable. This tax is paid on top of what the entity is paying to the airport authority. The airport authority provides the services that would typically be provided by a municipality.

While St. Cloud Regional Airport does not currently have any aviation sector manufacturers at our airport, we believe this effort could give us another tool in attracting manufacturers to our airport, resulting in job creation for the St. Cloud community. This action would give employers in aircraft manufacturing and aviation additional funds to reinvest in their manufacturing operations, resulting in growth and job creation, with virtually no fiscal impact to the state of Minnesota.

St. Cloud Regional Airport is supportive of this effort, and I would ask that the committee consider including this provision in a future tax bill as this 2025 legislative session moves forward.

Sincerely,

William P. Towle
Executive Director
St. Cloud Regional Airport Authority

CC: Senate Taxes Committee Members
Mitch Berggren, Senate Taxes Committee Administrator