



David T. McFaddin  
President

April 29, 2021

The Honorable Andy Barr  
2430 Rayburn House Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Barr,

I am proud to write you in support of the Madison County Fiscal Court's application for Appropriation Submission for Economy Road. The application is for the construction of a roadway that runs from U.S. Highway 52 to the Central Kentucky Regional Airport, a facility that Eastern Kentucky University (EKU) is both a community partner as well as the managing agent for the facility. This is a critical project for Eastern Kentucky University (EKU) and Madison County.

EKU is the proud home to Kentucky's only four-year aviation academic program. This program continues experiencing robust growth with nearly 300 students currently enrolled. We expect this number to grow to 350-400 in the upcoming academic years. These students frequently travel U.S. Highway 52 and take the current rural route of Caleast Road to get from EKU's main campus to the Central Kentucky Regional Airport where flight operations are headquartered.

Successful completion of Economy Road will dramatically improve the safety of EKU students to and from the main campus and Central Kentucky Regional Airport. We expect the aviation program to grow at an even more rapid pace in the coming years as the Commonwealth of Kentucky recently budgeted \$8 million to ensure the continued expansion of aviation programming at EKU and Central Kentucky Regional Airport. This will further increase the amount of student traffic on the current rural roadway making the need for a safe new roadway critical for both safety of our students as well as recruitment of potential students to our program.

This project is vital to unlocking Madison County's economic growth potential. In addition to created safer passage to and from Central Kentucky Regional Airport, this project will enhance an area of Madison County that is primed for economic development. I am proud to stand unified with Judge Executive Reagan Taylor and other local leaders as we work to move Madison County forward, and I want to convey how important this project is to ensure our community realizes its maximum potential for growth and economic development.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David T. McFaddin".

Dr. David T. McFaddin  
President  
Eastern Kentucky University

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