

STATE SENATOR • JOHN J. GLEASON • 27<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

# Gleason Press Release

P.O. Box 30036 • Lansing • Michigan • 48909-7536 • 517-373-0142 • Fax: 517-373-3938  
E-mail: SenJGleason@senate.michigan.gov • www.senate.mi.gov/gleason



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Mar 20, 2008

Contact: Sen John Gleason  
Phone: (517) 373-0142

## **Senator Gleason Presses for \$5.5M Funding for Bishop Airport Parking Projects**

*Combined State, Local, and Federal grants would be used to develop intermodal parking development*

FLINT- Senator John Gleason (D-Flushing) called today for the Michigan Legislature to quickly enact the Capitol Outlay Budget that includes \$5.5 million in funding for Bishop International Airport under legislation that passed the Michigan Senate today. Matching contributions made by both the state and local government in the amount of \$137,500 each would combined with \$5,225,000 in federal dollars bringing the total project to \$5.5M.

“We need to get the working men and women of Michigan back to work. This legislation is vital to allow these projects across the state to commence in earnest,” said Sen. Gleason.

The grant allocations would be used to develop intermodal parking at Bishop International Airport. An intermodal hub is designed to move cargo and other goods from one form of transportation-highways, rail, air or maritime-to another. A key component of the new intermodal facility will be the increased connection between Bishop Airport and the region's economic development strategy.

The \$33.7-million Bishop project, scheduled for completion in 2009, will capitalize on the Flint area's strategic location along national and international trade corridors. Bishop, which already handles more than 33 million pounds of cargo annually, has direct access to interstates I-69 and I- 75 as well as two major railroad systems.

“With a minimal investment by state and local government, we will leverage millions of federal monies into our state to provide much-needed infrastructure improvements for our airports, as well as jobs and economic development into Genesee County,” said Gleason.

Supported by the Federal Aviation Administration, State Aeronautics Fund, and local aeronautics match dollars, the FY 2007-08 recommendation would support a variety of airport improvement and maintenance projects at 105 airports throughout the State. The Governor's FY 2007-08 budget recommendation includes \$162.9 in Federal Aviation Administration funding. The Department of Transportation estimates that approximately

\$30 to \$40 million of that amount is discretionary funding and the balance consists of entitlement funds. Discretionary funds are usually distributed between April and June.

According to the Michigan Department of Transportation, if the Department does not have appropriation authorization for eligible projects, the Federal Regional Office could choose to distribute the discretionary funds to other states that have projects ready to go. While entitlement funds are formula driven and eventually will be received by the State, the lack of a State Capital Outlay budget could result in the delay of Federal entitlement funding until the FY 2008-09 Federal budget is adopted. The delay in construction projects results in lost economic opportunity. The Department estimates that approximately 60.0% of Federal funding for airports goes toward salaries and wages. Also, delays result in increased costs due to inflation.

# # #