

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

March 24, 2026

The Honorable Sean P. Duffy  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

The Honorable Bryan Bedford  
Administrator  
Federal Aviation Administration  
800 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Secretary Duffy and Administrator Bedford:

We write in support of Manassas Regional Airport's request for federal funding to replace the existing Air Traffic Control Tower at Manassas Regional Airport (HEF). We respectfully urge the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Federal Aviation Administration to fund this project at the level authorized for General Aviation airports and provide the airport's requested \$29 million in Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act funding. HEF has applied for this support in Fiscal Year 2026, the final year of funding availability under this program.

Manassas Regional Airport is one of only 85 General Aviation airports in the nation designated by the FAA as a National GA airport. It is the busiest GA airport in the Commonwealth of Virginia, serves as a designated reliever airport for both Washington Dulles International Airport and Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, and is currently transitioning to Commercial Service Airport status with airline service anticipated in 2027.

This airport is a critical economic and transportation asset for Northern Virginia and the Commonwealth as a whole. HEF supports approximately 400 based aircraft, 31 on-site aviation businesses, 2,343 jobs, and more than \$207 million in annual payroll, while generating over \$517 million in annual regional economic impact across Fairfax County, Prince William County, the City of Manassas, and Manassas Park. The airport also accounts for roughly 47 percent of the \$1.1 billion in annual economic activity generated by Virginia's general aviation airports. In addition, HEF supports a wide range of corporate, government, military, and medical aviation activities.

The need for this replacement project is clear and urgent. The current FAA-operated tower is outdated and beyond its useful life. Originally constructed in 1960 in Centennial, Colorado, it was relocated to Manassas in 1990 and commissioned in 1991. The existing 189-square-foot cab and supporting structure no longer meet current FAA safety, security, or operational requirements, the facility is operating at maximum capacity, and it requires increasing maintenance. Further, because of a runway extension, the tower no longer satisfies FAA line-of-sight requirements for safe air traffic operations.

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

The proposed replacement tower would directly address these deficiencies. The project would construct a new eight-story, 145-foot Air Traffic Control Tower that would improve safety, provide adequate operational and training space for FAA personnel, and support future airport growth, including the airport's anticipated commercial service. The project is well advanced: design is at the 95 percent Construction Document phase, the Environmental Assessment has been released for public comment, and the airport anticipates advertising the construction RFP in April 2026, opening bids in June 2026, and awarding a construction contract in July 2026. The total estimated project cost is \$31 million, including construction, soft costs, and reimbursement for completed design, environmental review, and FAA reimbursable agreements.

Given the project's advanced readiness, the airport's central role in the National Airspace System, and the clear operational and safety need for tower replacement, we urge you to give this request full and fair consideration and to provide funding at the authorized 95 percent federal share for General Aviation airports. This investment would strengthen safety, preserve critical reliever capacity in the Washington region, and support continued economic growth in Northern Virginia and the Commonwealth.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We appreciate your attention to this important project and stand ready to support its timely advancement.

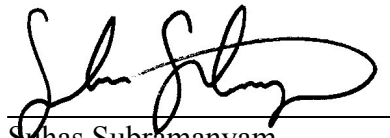
Sincerely,



Tim Kaine  
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator



Suhas Subramanyam  
Member of Congress