



**EASTERN SIERRA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (ESCOG)
Joint Powers Authority**

**P.O. Box 1609
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
(760) 965-3615 Clerk of the Board**

April 9, 2019

Honorable Jay Obernolte
1029 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Congressman Obernolte,

The Eastern Sierra Council of Governments (ESSOG) representing Mono County, Inyo County, City of Bishop and Town of Mammoth Lakes is pleased to support the Town of Mammoth Lakes appropriating request for funding of facilities and equipment for the Mammoth Yosemite Airport (MMH).

This funding is for the construction of a maintenance facility building to house equipment and a new ARFF fire response vehicle (Airport Fire Fighting and Rescue -ARFF). The facility would be designed to house the ARFF Vehicle, snow removal equipment, and other maintenance equipment. Keeping this equipment out of the elements extends the life of the equipment and enhances employee safety when working on equipment. The funding request of \$5,125,000 would improve Airport operations and emergency response capacities and extend the life of airport equipment.

The Mammoth Yosemite Airport provides year-round general aviation services and has a Part 139 certificate for commercial air service. MMH also serves as a forward firefighting base primarily for staging helicopter-based fire response efforts. With recent fires in our region, it is not unusual to have three to seven fire related helicopters staging at MMH. The proposed facilities will enhance the Airport's ability to provide support services for all operations at MMH.

We are requesting your support for the Town of Mammoth Lakes' Airport funding request for the construction of a maintenance facility building and ARFF vehicle.

Sincerely,

Karen Schwartz
Board Chair