

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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Statement of Congressman Dan Benishek (MI-01)

--Representative Supports FAA Bill While Defending Air Service In Northern Michigan--

WASHINGTON, DC: Congressman Dan Benishek (MI-01) today released the following statement:

“After carefully reading the text of the legislation, I decided to support the House’s Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) reauthorization bill.

Although the bill contains many important provisions, I was disappointed that the bill sunsets the Essential Air Service (EAS) program over the next four years. I believe the EAS is vital to Northern Michigan’s economy and serves as a lifeline to private sector job creation in the First District. I consider the program an important link—for both businesses and citizens in Northern Michigan—to the rest of the nation and the global economy.

I do not see air service in rural areas as unnecessary or reckless spending. As I travel in the District, I am frequently told by area employers how important Northern Michigan’s airports are to their businesses.

With an increasingly competitive economy, I believe we would not have many of these enterprises in our region if they did not have access to local airports and were not able to connect with clients and customers around the globe.

I will continue to vigorously support air service to Northern Michigan’s airports, and I am looking forward to working with my colleagues in both the House and Senate to strengthen the EAS program before this bill becomes law.”

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