BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

April 6, 2022
The Honorable Brad Wenstrup
Representative, District 2
US House of Representatives
170 North Main Street
Peebles, OH 45660

Dear Mr. Wenstrup:

The Adams County Commissioners are pleased to submit this application and letter of support for the Alexander Salamon Sewer Expansion project. This project is critical for our economic development efforts, and an important step in regionalizing our sanitary sewer system.

Adams County suffers from high unemployment and its many negative effects, among them crime, drug addiction, population, and talent loss. Any project that promises us improved economic opportunity is worth our best efforts, but the proposed airport sewer expansion project is worthy of our highest consideration. The project will construct approximately 5 miles of sanitary sewer line along with at least three lift stations with the Village of West Union's wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). This expansion will allow us to recruit new business and industry to the airport itself as well as the area surrounding it, bringing good paying jobs and the promise of a brighter future to Adams County.

As important is this project is to our future economic development efforts, it is also an important step in preserving our beautiful natural environment and bringing dependable public utility service to our rural residents. The Ohio EPA issued us findings and orders, encouraging us to bring public utility lines to unsewered residential areas. We and our village leaders have been aggressively pursuing funding through OEPA's State Revolving Funds to answer those findings and are proud of our communities' successes in securing principal forgiveness on several projects, keeping rates low for Adams County residents. Those projects would not be happening without that critical financial assistance, and neither will the proposed airport sewer extension.

We need your help securing these funds so that Adams County can compete for business and industry and so we can provide the kinds of utility services residents want and deserve. The closure of our two coal-fired power plants had a terrible impact on our residents and communities. Overnight, hundreds lost their jobs. By the time all the 'ripples' had played out, thousands were out of work. Many of our residents had to choose between remaining with their extended families and support networks and being able to put food on the table. We lost a lot of good, hard-working people who felt they had no choice but to leave Adams County to survive. More than anything, we want to break that negative cycle. This kind of project will help us do that. Please give this project your strongest support as you and your fellow legislators debate which projects have enough merit to rise to the top. Remind them that the country's rural poor have been overlooked for far too long. Ask them to see us as trustworthy partners that will take their investment and multiply it. We thank you for your support for this project and for your service to Adams County and our country.

Sincerely,

Diane Ward

Diane Ward
Member, Adams County Commissioners

215 NORTH CROSS STREET
SUITE 102
WEST UNION, OHIO 45693
(937) 544-3286 ~ ADAMSCOUNTYOH.COM

Village of West Union

33 Logans Lane
West Union Ohio 45693

April 6, 2022

The Honorable Brad Wenstrup
Representative, District 2
US House of Representatives
170 North Main Street
Peebles, OH 45660

Dear Mr. Wenstrup:

I am writing today in support of the Alexander Salamon Airport Sewer Expansion project. It will help us regionalize sanitary sewer service in Adams County, something that we are being encouraged to do by Ohio EPA to help our natural environment. Once constructed, it will offer us the opportunity to expand business and industry. Without projects like this, West Union and Adams County cannot hope to bring much needed jobs to our residents. Our unemployment rates remain a persistent 6%, much higher than Ohio's average of 4.2% or the US rate of 3.6%.

As a resident of Adams County and a leader for West Union, I know this is a good project. It has been in our County's plans and on our minds for many years, but we need assistance to make it happen. We ask that you give this your strongest support in the House to help us build a better future for Adams County.

Sincerely,

Jason Buda

Jason Buda
Mayor, Village of West Union

Adams County Community Improvement Corporation

215 N. Cross Street, Room 101 *West Union, Ohio 45693*

Phone (937) 544-5151
Fax (937) 544-5939

April 6, 2022

The Honorable Brad Wenstrup
Representative, District 2
US House of Representatives
170 North Main Street
Peebles, OH 45660

Dear Mr. Wenstrup:

The Adams County Community Improvement Corporation strongly supports the Alexander Salamon Airport Sewer Expansion project and asks that you give it your strongest consideration as a capital appropriations request. This five mile extension of a sanitary sewer line will link the airport, one of our critical economic development assets, with an existing wastewater treatment facility that has sufficient capacity to accept flow from the existing businesses that will be tied in. More importantly, it has the capacity to support *new* businesses that will be able to locate in Adams County once this critical infrastructure is constructed.

We are working hard, every day, in Adams County to overcome severe economic challenges. Against the backdrop of a designation as a 'distressed county' by the Appalachian Regional Commission, we struggled with the 2008 housing crisis, we have experienced job losses tied to the closure of two coal-fired power plants, and felt the deep misery and tumult linked to the opioid crisis. The Ohio EPA gave us findings and order to bring sanitary sewer and drinking water service to rural residential areas. We have made great strides toward this, but we need your help to continue. Please include Adams County's Alexander Salamon Airport Sewer Extension project in the FY2023 capital appropriations.

Sincerely,

Holly Johnson, Secretary/Treasurer
Adams County Community Improvement Corporation

Adams County Alexander Salamon Airport

3389 Cross Rd.
Winchester, Ohio 45697

April 7, 2022

The Honorable Brad Wenstrup
Representative, District 2
US House of Representatives
170 North Main Street
Peebles, OH 45660

Dear Mr. Wenstrup:

The Adams County Airport Authority Board appointed by the Adams County Commissioners supports the Alexander Salamon Airport Sewer Expansion project and asks that you give it your strongest consideration as a capital appropriations request. This extension of a sanitary sewer line will link the airport, one of our critical economic development assets, with an existing wastewater treatment facility that has sufficient capacity to accept flow from the existing businesses that will be tied in. More importantly, it has the capacity to support *new* businesses that will be able to locate nearby the Airport after this infrastructure is constructed. This project can truly help to promote economic growth in Adams County!

Businesses, Coalitions/Organizations, and Individual Leaders in Adams County work hard to overcome severe economic challenges. Adams County, Ohio is designated a 'distressed county' by the Appalachian Regional Commission. We have struggled with the 2008 housing crisis; we have experienced job losses related to the closure of two coal-fired power plants and continue to experience challenges linked to the opioid crisis. The Ohio EPA findings has resulted in an order to bring sanitary sewer and drinking water service to rural residential areas. We have made progress toward this, but we need your help to continue. Please include Adams County's Alexander Salamon Airport Sewer Extension project in the FY2023 capital appropriations.

Sincerely,

Sharon Ashley, VP

Sharon Ashley, Vice President
Adams County Airport Authority Board
Alexander Salamon Airport
Adams County, Ohio
(c) 513-543-2410