

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0403

April 29, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger,

I am requesting funding for the XNA Temporary Control Tower Replacement project in fiscal year 2023.

The entity to receive funding for this project is the Northwest Arkansas National Airport (XNA). The airport's address is One Airport Blvd., Suite 100 Bentonville, Arkansas 72713 and the project is located in Bentonville, Arkansas.

This project will replace the existing air traffic control tower (ATCT) at Northwest Arkansas National Airport (XNA). The ATCT at XNA is a temporary tower constructed in 1998 as one of the last components of the airport project. Funding and timing issues forced XNA to build the ATCT as a temporary facility and the current facility presents safety and aviation control issues that XNA must work around. The project will construct a new ATCT that will meet FAA requirements and have room for expected growth. My request is for \$7 million of the expected \$12.5 million project cost to replace the existing ATCT at Northwest Arkansas National Airport (XNA).

The existing ATCT has no fire control system, no fire rated walls, lacks ADA accessibility, and lacks adequate space for vital equipment. Currently, much of the FAA required equipment is kept in a CONEX at the base of the ATCT and the manager's office as well as the staff breakroom are in modular units near the base of the tower. More importantly, the current ATCT has a cab height of 47' which is inadequate to need due to the 2012 addition of Runway 17/35 which was built to provide an alternate landing area while the main runway (RW 16/34) was undergoing renovation and will ultimately serve as a parallel runway. Furthermore, a third runway is expected to be built east of the terminal building (other side of the building from the current runways). To be FAA-compliant and meet expected future needs the new ATCT will have a cab height of 124'. For 2019, XNA ranked as the 99th busiest airport in the U.S. with 1,846,374 passengers arriving and departing from the airport. No federal or FAA funds were used to construct the current/original ATCT. The airport has committed to funding the remainder of the project with airport funds.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,



Steve Womack
Member of Congress