

## Extension of runway would offer advantages

To the Editor:

We support the proposed north runway extension at Ohio State University's airport.

We participated in the 1990 Airport Master Plan process. That plan was approved, and many positive comments were received. The plan provided for the extension of the north runway to 6,000 feet.

The airport has a \$65 million economic impact in the area and provides critical medical transport services.

The benefits of the runway extension include:

■ **Less noise.** The proposed runway extension, with a precision Instrument Landing System from the east to the airport, will keep the landing aircraft higher initially, and in a much quieter flight mode. Due to siting considerations, it was not possible to put the ILS to the east on the south runway.

■ **Safety.** The Federal Aviation Administration recommended runway length is 6,500 feet for the type of aircraft that Worthington Industries, Wendy's, Advanced Drainage, Jack Nicklaus, Cardinal Health and other leading businesses in Central Ohio fly.

■ **Space.** Due to the runway protection areas at the ends of the crosswind runways there is not much building area left on the south side of the hangars, so the plan is to eventually move the locally based aircraft to the north side, with access to state Route 161. This also provides a much greater industrial-commercial area as a buffer from the ramp area and from taxiing turbine aircraft operations. This buffer area would not be as noise-sensitive as the residential areas on the south side.

■ **Business attitude.** Corporate aviation brings in a lot of business to Central Ohio. We are 40 minutes by air to Chicago, and 45 minutes to the New York area.

Organizations that utilize general aviation aircraft in filling their travel needs have a very positive attitude about their business and their customers' time and convenience, and favor locations that accommodate their needs.

■ **Always open.** The additional length proposed for the north runway provides the redundancy to keep the airport safely open when runway maintenance or snow removal is required on either of the two main runways. If you have flown up from Dallas or any distant location, for example, it is important that you are able to land where your contacts are expecting to pick you up.

There are other good reasons for this project, and I will elaborate on them if you wish.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

**Alan Harding, president  
Columbus Flight Watch**