

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 18, 2024

Mr. Michael G. Whitaker  
Administrator  
Federal Aviation Administration  
800 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Administrator Whitaker:

We write to express our support for the Capital Region Airport Commission's application for an FY 2025 FAA Airport Terminal Program grant to design a Consolidated Passenger Screening Checkpoint, which is needed to accommodate the record number of passengers using the Richmond International Airport (RIC).

RIC's terminal was designed more than 20 years ago in 2003, and has checkpoints at each of its two concourses. While this design was workable for many years, RIC experienced record passenger traffic in 2023 and is on track to set a new record this year. This increased traffic frequently causes a serious imbalance at the checkpoints, with long lines at one concourse and short lines at the other, particularly during peak hours. A large, consolidated checkpoint would eliminate this growing problem and provide greater screening capacity, a more reasonable distribution of resources, shorter lines, and improved access to the gates.

We understand that RIC is also moving towards common-use gates, which will increase capacity and encourage competition. The new consolidated checkpoint will allow the two concourses to be connected, enabling the airlines to use common gates more efficiently as airline personnel and passengers will be able to move between the two concourses without having to be rescreened.

RIC is an integral part of the region and is key to the continued growth and success of the Richmond region. We urge full and fair consideration of this project, which will benefit the Richmond area by providing a modern Consolidated Passenger Screening Checkpoint that meets the current and projected needs of the traveling public. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jennifer L. McClellan  
Member of Congress



Robert J. Wittman  
Member of Congress



Abigail Davis Spanberger  
Member of Congress