



Office of the Mayor
City of Springfield, Illinois

James O. Langfelder
Mayor

January 4, 2022

Chairman Frank Vala
Board of Commissioners of the Springfield Airport Authority
1200 Capital Airport Drive
Springfield, IL 62707

Dear Chairman Vala and Commissioners of the Board,

I am writing to you as Commissioners of the Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport Board in response to various media reports that the Springfield Airport Authority authorized a lawsuit against the City of Springfield regarding "motor-fuel tax" owed under FAA regulations. I am also providing a copy of this letter to the Springfield City Council since your action has been discussed at previous City Council meetings. I am requesting a meeting with the Commissioners of the Board to discuss this issue and other matters related to the airport. My office will contact the Chairman to set a convenient time for everyone to meet.

Regarding the "motor fuel tax" issue, I believe that your attorney and the city's attorney agree that the federal rule did not become effective until after the FAA grace period expired December 2017. The State of Illinois filed a compliance plan with the FAA and adopted state legislative changes for all airports in Illinois effective in December 2019. Attached is a copy of the applicable page from the FAA website showing that the State of Illinois and that the Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport comply with federal regulations. The FAA does not claim that there is any past due amounts owed. Only the U.S. Secretary may file enforcement actions to enforce federal regulatory requirements. The national federal regulations involved do not allow for enforcement by local governments or private citizens.

The City of Springfield's Office of Budget and Management has calculated that the amount of sales tax collected by the Illinois Department of Revenue for the period following the FAA "grace period" December, 2017 until the effective date of the new state law in 2019 is \$48,000. If approved by City

Council, I agree to use this money to hire a consultant to perform an analysis and provide a strategy to increase services and flights at the airport to benefit the citizens of Springfield and surrounding areas.

While I believe the City is well positioned to defend against any such lawsuit, I am concerned that the proposed legal action is wasteful of taxpayers' money. I would rather avoid this waste of time and resources, and instead, work together to improve public services at the airport to benefit the community. To that end, I request a meeting between the City and Airport Board in an effort to resolve the matter amicably and discuss other airport matters.

Best Regards,



Jim Langfelder
Mayor, City of Springfield