

**THE ENGLAND ECONOMIC AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**REGULAR SESSION MARCH 24, 2022**

---

---

The England Economic and Industrial Development District met in Regular Session in the England Authority Board Room, 1611 Arnold Drive, Alexandria, Louisiana, on **Thursday, March 24, 2022 at 5:05 p.m.**

Mrs. Robbyn Cooper, Chair of the England Authority, requested a roll call.

**There were present:** Mrs. Robbyn Cooper, Chair; Mr. William Barron, Vice-Chair; Secretary/Treasurer; Mr. Richard Bushnell, Mr. Dennis Frazier, Mr. Patrick O'Quin, Mr. Sam Spurgeon and Mr. Zeb Winstead

**Absent were:** Colonel Katrina Lloyd, Mr. Charlie Weems

Also present were members of the England Authority staff: Mrs. Sandra McQuain, Executive Director; Mr. Scott Gammel, Deputy Director–Airside; Mr. David Broussard, Deputy Director–Landside; Mr. John Ryland, Legal Counsel; Ms. Mary Kee, Municipal Clerk; Mrs. Cathy Grant, Finance Director

The England Economic and Industrial Development District was duly convened as the governing authority of said District by Mrs. Robbyn Cooper, Chair, stated that the England Economic and Industrial Development District was ready for the transaction of business.

Chair Cooper asked if there were any public comments or questions. Hearing none, Mrs. Cooper proceeded with the action items.

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 24, 2022 REGULAR BOARD MEETING AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS.**

Motion by **Mr. Richard Bushnell**, second by **Mr. Dennis Frazier**, to approve the Minutes of February 24, 2022 Regular Board meeting and Committee meetings. The Chair called for any comments from the board or public. There being none, a vote was called and motion carried. **011-2022**

Chair Cooper called for a motion to approve consent calendar for items #2 and #3.

Motion by **Mr. William Barron**, second by **Mr. Dennis Frazier**, to approve consent calendar for items #2 and #3. The Chair called for any comments from the board or public. There being none, a vote was called and motion carried.

**MOTION TO AUTHORIZE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A GROUND LEASE BETWEEN EEIDD AND TANGO PAPA, LLC FOR LAND TO BUILD AN EXECUTIVE HANGAR AT ALEXANDRIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.**

Motion by **Mr. William Barron**, second by **Mr. Dennis Frazier**, to authorize Executive Director to execute a ground lease between EEIDD and Tango Papa, LLC for land to build an executive hangar at Alexandria International Airport. The Chair called for any comments from the board or public. There being none, a vote was called and motion carried. **012-2022**

**MOTION TO AUTHORIZE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE LEASE BETWEEN EEIDD AND ACADIAN AVIATION, INC. FOR OFFICE, TRAINING AND CLASSROOM SPACE LOCATED AT 1613 JB HUNT DRIVE.**

Motion by **Mr. William Barron**, second by **Mr. Dennis Frazier** to authorize Executive Director to execute lease between EEIDD and Acadian Aviation, Inc. for office, training and classroom space located at 1613 JB Hunt Drive.

**THE ENGLAND ECONOMIC AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS** **REGULAR SESSION MARCH 24, 2022**

---

---

The Chair called for any comments from the board or public. There being none, a vote was called and motion carried. **013-2022**

**ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

**E. Comments by Legal Counsel – N/A**

**F. Comments or Questions by Commissioners – N/A**

**G. Air Services Report –** Presented by Commissioner Patrick O’Quin: There was an informal discussion addressing United Airlines pulling out and American Airlines losing one of their two non-stop flights to AEX. In attendance were Vice Chair William Barron, Sandra McQuain, Executive Director; Commissioners Richard Bushnell, Sam Spurgeon, Patrick O’Quin and Scott Gammel, Deputy Director-Airside. There was not a quorum for this meeting. Mr. O’Quin stated that the group discussed some of the following ideas to help the situation such as: 1) National Security; 2) Civil Reserve Air Fleet (CRAF) Program; 3) Congressional outreach; 4) financial incentives; 5) AEX summer campaign; 6) heavy marketing; 7) community involvement; 8) form letters; 9) parking fees.

Mr. Gammel stated that part of the process would be that the State of LA will conduct a statewide airline study of the several commercial airports with all the major airlines. There will be a “scoping meeting” in the coming week to discuss AEX needs – strong and weak points. Ft. Polk’s numbers would also be included in AEX’s study. Mr. Brad Brandt, State Director of Aviation, Mr. Mike Boyd, consultant and Mr. Scott Gammel, Deputy Director of Airpark – Landside will have a conference call to develop a draft of what is needed for AEX only. Mr. Gammel will then present the draft to Mrs. McQuain for her to look over and make necessary changes if needed.

Todd Fingleton with Fing Designs and David Broussard shared some preliminary concepts to help increase passenger traffic during the summer months. Mr. Fingleton recommended more advertising for billboards, radio, TV ads and social media.

Commissioner Dennis Frazier asked what would the financial impact be for the year with United Airlines leaving.

Mrs. McQuain stated that United Airlines would not be leaving until June. Mrs. McQuain estimated the financial impact to be about \$75,000 on an annualized basis, which would come from counter rentals on first floor of the terminal, gate rentals and fuel sales. There has not been a projection on how the parking lot would be impacted or finalize the number on PFC’s.

Discussion ensued between staff and commissioners regarding AEX parking and incentives. Chair Cooper requested that Mrs. McQuain begin research for the best approach to take, as well as, staying within the regulations and report back to the board.

Chair Robbyn Cooper asked Commissioner Patrick O’Quin if there was a quorum at the meeting on Monday, March 21, 2022. Commissioner O’Quin stated that there was not a quorum.

Chair Robbyn Cooper next requested Ms. Mary Kee, Municipal Clerk, to attach Mrs. McQuain’s email, which was sent to all board members, to the minutes as part of the record to show the efforts that were done as a board to combat the issue.

**H. Staff Report:**

- a) **Financial – Cathy Grant, Finance Director:** Preparing for FY 2023 budget and FY 2022 audit.
- b) **Air Traffic – Scott Gammel, Deputy Director for Airport & Capital Projects:** Mr. Gammel stated that the last two months were wonderful with Air Operations up 3% for total enplanements as well as having a very large rotation in March with the 75<sup>th</sup> Rangers “*Airport Takedown*”. There were almost 760 general aviation and 950 military people. Mr. Sam Murphy, Exercise Planner for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment in Ft. Benning, GA., extended his gratitude via email to Scott Gammel, Jamie Gray and Kasey Carter for their outstanding support during the training event.

Mr. Gammel next presented information on the *Ford Tri Motor Aircraft Tour Stop* that will be at Million Air of Alexandria, located at Alexandria International Airport, from March 24<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> for public viewing and flight experiences.

- c) **Economic Development – David Broussard, Airpark Deputy Director-Landside:** An Aviation Site Selector was brought in by LED that is targeting a few airports in LA. LED wants to help England Airpark, as well as a few others, to bring manufacturing and MRO's to the local area.

Mr. Broussard also briefed the Board of Commissioners on how fortunate England Authority had been in landing two manufacturing companies during COVID. *Azeoform* is a manufacturing company that produces components made from steel rods sourced from Shreveport, LA. “Stihl”, a company that manufactures weed eaters, chainsaws, etc., is their biggest customer. *Azeoform* located at the Airpark in 2020 and have done so well, that they have put in another CNC machine and is expected to add a third machine. The company went from one to six employees in less than two years.

Mr. Broussard updated commissioners on the upcoming MRO (Maintenance Repair Overhaul) show in Dallas that he, Mrs. McQuain and Scott Gammel will be attending in April. Representatives from Pan American Engineers, CLECO, CLTCC, LSUA and LED will also be in attendance.

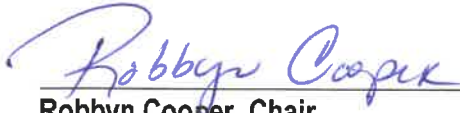
Mr. Broussard next discussed an 80/20 grant program that England Airpark would participate in with RAPC. The grant would enable overlaying Vandenberg Drive from the back gate to England Drive. England Airpark is working with Pan American Engineers on this project. This would be an \$800,000 project with England Airpark's match of \$270,000.

The England Airpark Community Center has had 23 events for fiscal year 2021/2022. Since the opening of the Community Center, every Saturday is booked through March, with ten more events scheduled through June.

Mr. Broussard was very excited to announce that the Governor had put \$1.5 million in priority one Capital Outlay for a wide body hangar. England Airpark will be working with Pan American Engineers and Burns & McDonnell, to bring it through its first major phase of design, engineering and studies.

**I. Public Comments or Questions – N/A**

Chair Robbyn Cooper called for any comments or questions from the public. There being none, meeting adjourned at 6:06 p.m.



---

**Robbyn Cooper, Chair**  
*England Economic and Industrial Development District  
Board of Commissioners*

---

**COL Katrina Lloyd, Secretary/Treasurer**  
*England Economic and Industrial Development District  
Board of Commissioners*

## Mary Kee

---

**From:** Mary Kee  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 20, 2022 10:03 AM  
**To:** Mary Kee  
**Subject:** FW: Update on United/Charlotte situation  
**Attachments:** LTR\_The Honorable Bill Cassidy\_2022-03-08.pdf; LTR\_The Honorable John Kennedy\_2022-03-08.pdf; LTR\_The Honorable Julia Letlow\_2022-03-08.pdf

**From:** Sandra McQuain  
**Sent:** Friday, March 11, 2022 10:43 AM  
**To:** Patrick OQuin <[poquin1@yahoo.com](mailto:poquin1@yahoo.com)>  
**Cc:** Robbyn Cooper <[robyn.cooper@cleco.com](mailto:robyn.cooper@cleco.com)>; Charlie Weems <[cweems@goldweems.com](mailto:cweems@goldweems.com)>; William Barron <[wbarron@barroncompanies.com](mailto:wbarron@barroncompanies.com)>; Richard Bushnell <[village195@aol.com](mailto:village195@aol.com)>; Dennis Frazier <[dfrazier3@bellsouth.net](mailto:dfrazier3@bellsouth.net)>; Zeb Winstead <[ZWinstead@crowellandowens.com](mailto:ZWinstead@crowellandowens.com)>; [kloyd1908@gmail.com](mailto:kloyd1908@gmail.com); Scott Gammel <[SGammel@englandairpark.org](mailto:SGammel@englandairpark.org)>; David Broussard <[DBroussard@englandairpark.org](mailto:DBroussard@englandairpark.org)>; Cathy Grant <[cgrant@englandairpark.org](mailto:cgrant@englandairpark.org)>; John Ryland <[JRyland@provosty.com](mailto:JRyland@provosty.com)>; Sheri Scallan <[sscallan@englandairpark.org](mailto:sscallan@englandairpark.org)>; [sam@spurgeonlaw.com](mailto:sam@spurgeonlaw.com)  
**Subject:** RE: Update on United/Charlotte situation

Hi everyone,

I was putting the finishing touches on this update when I received Patrick's email. Here is where things stand:

I have had multiple conversations with Cong. Letlow's Chief of Staff as has our DC-based government relations team. Our team in DC has also spoken with Ron Anderson on Sen. Cassidy's staff multiple times. Thus far, Senator Kennedy's office has not returned our calls.

Twenty-two (22) elected officials and business leaders agreed to have their names included in the attached letters which were hand delivered to the offices of Letlow, Cassidy and Kennedy. Showing this depth of support has sent a powerful message to our congressional delegation that the community is concerned about the decision by United. As an example, receipt of the letter prompted an immediate request by Letlow's staff for a follow-up call to assure us this is a priority for the Congresswoman.

While I do not believe congressional outreach will influence United's decision in the short-term, it should help us remain a priority when they begin returning service to the regional markets.

Another strategy we are employing is to look at the Civil Reserve Airfleet (CRAF) program. Through this program, air carriers agree to volunteer the use of their aircraft in the event of national defense related crisis. In return for participating, carriers are given preference in lucrative contracts with the US Dept. of Defense and the US Dept. of Commerce. United participates in this program and our congressional leaders believe it is not a good look for a major carrier in the CRAF program to pull out of AEX, which is the home airport of Fort Polk/JRTC. There may be an opportunity to provide language in the next Defense Authorization Act to address our situation; however, I want to caution there is much research and work to be done. This is not a quick resolution. That said, we believe Cong. Mike Johnson, who sits on the House Armed Services and has both Barksdale and Polk in his District will be a tremendous ally in getting something crafted.

I met with General Doyle in person this week and we discussed the situation with United. He shared that they purchase between 75-80 commercial airline tickets per week (under contracts with the airlines) for flights out of AEX. He is

working to see what information he can release to me regarding travel on the specific carriers, use of their charters and any details on CRAF. We can request this through a FOIA if need be, but it will be quicker to get from the Fort if possible.

I have spoken to Secretary Wilson and Shawn Welcome, Secretary Pierson's Aviation Business Director. Sec. Wilson advised the Governor is working on a letter to send to United and will definitely be addressing the impact on their decision on Fort Polk operations and quality of life initiatives. Sec. Wilson shared he has reached out to his counterparts in other states who also have concerns about the loss of air service in small markets. They are discussing strategies and ideas for how to collaborate in addressing the issue. I will see Sec. Wilson next week at the P3 Conference in Dallas. He and I are both speaking at the event.

I had an excellent call with Stan Little, the CEO of Southern Airways. We do not have the population numbers to support air service from Commuter Carriers. Airlines operating in this space typically need a population of about a million persons. That said, he thought there were five airlines that would be good targets for us: Avelo, Allegiant, Frontier, Sun Country and Breeze. He also discussed ideas on financial incentives we could offer to bring new service into the market such as paying for ground handling. These incentive programs are highly regulated and need further research, but they could give us a competitive advantage against other regional airports if offered. We discussed pursuing air service development grants, but these tend to be short term fixes and the airlines usually leave once the money runs out. My next step here is to begin research on these carriers and their network plans. We will have to be educated and prepared to explain the economic benefit of providing service to AEX and need a better handle on what we can legally offer. Again, not a quick fix, but a path to pursue nonetheless.

I reached out to one of our contacts at American Airlines to see if I could meet with him while in Dallas next week. He is on vacation and we will get a call on the calendar for later in the month. I intend to discuss the situation with United and explore what opportunities that might open up to fly larger aircraft between DFW and AEX. I'll also be asking about an update on the AEX to Charlotte flight.

The one common theme from all these conversations is that United is a mess right now. There are rumors that in the next few weeks, they will announce an additional 20-30 markets that are losing service. Yesterday, United announced that they are allowing 2,000 unvaccinated employees to return. Clearly, their employee shrinkage has hit critical levels. While I do believe United will return, I honestly think it could be a year or more before that happens.

Please let me know if you have any questions. I am also available to speak with anyone who reaches out to you to discuss our work on this matter.

Sandra

**Sandra McQuain**

Executive Director

ENGLAND AIRPARK | ALEXANDRIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

1611 Arnold Drive

Alexandria, LA 71303

318-427-6414 - Office

318-613-5046 - Mobile

[smcquain@englandairpark.org](mailto:smcquain@englandairpark.org)

[www.englandairpark.ork](http://www.englandairpark.ork) | [www.flyaex.org](http://www.flyaex.org)



**England Economic & Industrial Development District**  
1611 Arnold Drive, Alexandria, LA 71303  
OFFICE: 318-449-3504 FAX: 318-449-3506  
[www.englishairpark.org](http://www.englishairpark.org) | [www.flyaex.org](http://www.flyaex.org)

**ENGLAND  
AUTHORITY**

Sandra S. McQuain  
*Executive Director*

The Honorable Bill Cassidy  
United States Senator  
520 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

March 8, 2022

**Commissioners:**

**RAPIDES PARISH**  
William Barron  
Dennis Frazier  
Sam Spurgeon

**CITY OF ALEXANDRIA**  
COL Katrina Lloyd  
Patrick O'Quinn

**CITY OF PINEVILLE**  
Robbyn Cooper

**TOWNS**  
Richard Bushnell

**CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE**  
Charles S. Weems III  
Zeb Winstead

Dear Senator Cassidy:

We write to express our significant concern over United Airlines' decision to withdraw air service entirely from Louisiana's 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional district. We appreciate your service to our state, and we recognize the important role you play in ensuring that Central Louisiana remains a vibrant and economically diverse community.

As you have undoubtedly heard, United Airlines has announced that it is ending service to Alexandria International Airport (AEX) in June. This is the second airport in Louisiana to lose service from United. The loss of this route connecting Alexandria to Houston will be devastating to our community. United's decision will force your constituents to have to travel significant distance to connect to our country's air transportation network, directly impacting economic growth for the 5<sup>th</sup> district. Put more directly, the loss of the United route to Houston means there is no airline coverage by United in the North Central and Northeastern parts of Louisiana. As a result, families and employees living in this region of the state would become isolated and forced to travel long distances to connect through Houston. United's decision will add hours to this journey.

The loss of service will also have negative downstream effects on Alexandria. England Airpark and Alexandria International Airport are important economic engines for our region and provide the community with essential air service to connect with Houston, Dallas, Atlanta, and Charlotte. Alexandria has been welcoming of airlines providing these critical routes for our citizens, especially our troops and their families at Fort Polk. Operations at England Airpark and AEX contribute over \$276 million in economic impact in Central Louisiana. With over 2,000 jobs associated with the Airpark's activities, it is essential to continue to support the economic development mission of the Airpark.

The American public spent billions of dollars to quickly support the aviation sector during the COVID pandemic. That important investment was made to ensure that air service would be preserved for the traveling public as the pandemic eased. We appreciate your attention to this matter and would ask that you do everything possible to ensure the residents of your district that utilize this vital route do not get left behind.

On behalf of England Airpark and Alexandria International Airport,

Sandra McQuain  
Executive Director



On behalf of the citizens in the 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District,

**ELECTED OFFICIALS**

Jeffrey W. Hall, Mayor  
City of Alexandria

Jay Luneau  
Louisiana State Senator, District 29

Lance Harris  
Louisiana State Representative, District 25

Mike Reese  
Louisiana State Senator, District 30

Ed Larvadain, III  
Louisiana State Representative, District 26

Louie Bernard  
Louisiana State Senator, District 31

Mike Johnson  
Louisiana State Representative, District 27

**BUSINESS & COMMUNITY LEADERS**

Robert Bash, CFII  
Central Louisiana Chamber of Commerce  
Board, Retired

Eric Lord, Market Director-Central Louisiana  
Regions Bank

Don Barker, Finance Director  
Christus Central Louisiana Surgical Hospital

Peter Orji, Alexandria Site Leader  
Procter & Gamble Manufacturing Company

Rich Brewer, PhD, MBA, President & CEO  
Louisiana Christian University

Deborah Randolph, President  
Central Louisiana Regional Chamber of Commerce

Blake Chatelain, President/CEO  
Red River Bank

Ben Russo, IMPE, Executive Director  
Central Louisiana Regional Port

Caitlin Chellette  
Executive Board President, Young  
Professionals Group of Alexandria  
Communications Content Creator,  
Roy O. Martin

Dr. Jimmy Sawtelle, Chancellor  
Central Louisiana Technical & Community College

Dr. Paul Coreil, Chancellor  
Louisiana State University of Alexandria

Lee Weeks, Director of Operations  
Southern Air Heating & Cooling

Shane Hilton, President  
Cleco Power, LLC

Monte Wilson, CEO/President  
Christus St. Frances Cabrini Health Center





**England Economic &  
Industrial Development District**  
1611 Arnold Drive, Alexandria, LA 71303  
OFFICE: 318-449-3504 FAX: 318-449-3506  
[www.englishairpark.org](http://www.englishairpark.org) | [www.flyaex.org](http://www.flyaex.org)

**ENGLAND  
AUTHORITY**

Sandra S. McQuain  
*Executive Director*

The Honorable John Kennedy  
United States Senator  
416 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

March 8, 2022

**Commissioners:**

**RAPIDES PARISH**  
William Barron  
Dennis Frazier  
Sam Spurgeon

**CITY OF ALEXANDRIA**  
COL Katrina Lloyd  
Patrick O'Quinn

**CITY OF PINEVILLE**  
Robbyn Cooper

**TOWNS**  
Richard Bushnell

**CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE**  
Charles S. Weems III  
Zeb Winstead

Dear Senator Kennedy:

We write to express our significant concern over United Airlines' decision to withdraw air service entirely from Louisiana's 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional district. We appreciate your service to our state, and we recognize the important role you play in ensuring that Central Louisiana remains a vibrant and economically diverse community.

As you have undoubtedly heard, United Airlines has announced that it is ending service to Alexandria International Airport (AEX) in June. This is the second airport in Louisiana to lose service from United. The loss of this route connecting Alexandria to Houston will be devastating to our community. United's decision will force your constituents to have to travel significant distance to connect to our country's air transportation network, directly impacting economic growth for the 5<sup>th</sup> district. Put more directly, the loss of the United route to Houston means there is no airline coverage by United in the North Central and Northeastern parts of Louisiana. As a result, families and employees living in this region of the state would become isolated and forced to travel long distances to connect through Houston. United's decision will add hours to this journey.

The loss of service will also have negative downstream effects on Alexandria. England Airpark and Alexandria International Airport are important economic engines for our region and provide the community with essential air service to connect with Houston, Dallas, Atlanta, and Charlotte. Alexandria has been welcoming of airlines providing these critical routes for our citizens, especially our troops and their families at Fort Polk. Operations at England Airpark and AEX contribute over \$276 million in economic impact in Central Louisiana. With over 2,000 jobs associated with the Airpark's activities, it is essential to continue to support the economic development mission of the Airpark.

The American public spent billions of dollars to quickly support the aviation sector during the COVID pandemic. That important investment was made to ensure that air service would be preserved for the traveling public as the pandemic eased. We appreciate your attention to this matter and would ask that you do everything possible to ensure the residents of your district that utilize this vital route do not get left behind.

On behalf of England Airpark and Alexandria International Airport,

Sandra McQuain  
Executive Director

On behalf of the citizens in the 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District,

**ELECTED OFFICIALS**

Jeffrey W. Hall, Mayor  
City of Alexandria

Jay Luneau  
Louisiana State Senator, District 29

Lance Harris  
Louisiana State Representative, District 25

Mike Reese  
Louisiana State Senator, District 30

Ed Larvadain, III  
Louisiana State Representative, District 26

Louie Bernard  
Louisiana State Senator, District 31

Mike Johnson  
Louisiana State Representative, District 27

**BUSINESS & COMMUNITY LEADERS**

Robert Bash, CFII  
Central Louisiana Chamber of Commerce  
Board, Retired

Eric Lord, Market Director-Central Louisiana  
Regions Bank

Don Barker, Finance Director  
Christus Central Louisiana Surgical Hospital

Peter Orji, Alexandria Site Leader  
Procter & Gamble Manufacturing Company

Rich Brewer, PhD, MBA, President & CEO  
Louisiana Christian University

Deborah Randolph, President  
Central Louisiana Regional Chamber of Commerce

Blake Chatelain, President/CEO  
Red River Bank

Ben Russo, IMPE, Executive Director  
Central Louisiana Regional Port

Caitlin Chellette  
Executive Board President, Young  
Professionals Group of Alexandria  
Communications Content Creator,  
Roy O. Martin

Dr. Jimmy Sawtelle, Chancellor  
Central Louisiana Technical & Community College

Dr. Paul Coreil, Chancellor  
Louisiana State University of Alexandria

Kevin Simpson, Vice President/CFO  
Simpson Security Systems, LLC

Shane Hilton, President  
Cleco Power, LLC

Lee Weeks, Director of Operations  
Southern Air Heating & Cooling

Monte Wilson, CEO/President  
Christus St. Frances Cabrini Health Center



England Economic & Industrial Development District  
1611 Arnold Drive, Alexandria, LA 71303  
OFFICE: 318-449-3504 FAX: 318-449-3506  
www.englishairpark.org | www.flyaex.org

ENGLAND  
AUTHORITY

Sandra S. McQuain  
Executive Director

The Honorable Julia Letlow  
Member of Congress  
1408 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

March 8, 2022

Commissioners:

RAPIDES PARISH  
William Barron  
Dennis Frazier  
Sam Spurgeon

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA  
COL Katrina Lloyd  
Patrick O'Quinn

CITY OF PINEVILLE  
Robbyn Cooper

TOWNS  
Richard Bushnell

CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE  
Charles S. Weems III  
Zeb Winstead

Dear Congresswoman Letlow:

We write to express our significant concern over United Airlines' decision to withdraw air service entirely from Louisiana's 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional district. We appreciate your service to our state, and we recognize the important role you play in ensuring that Central Louisiana remains a vibrant and economically diverse community.

As you have undoubtedly heard, United Airlines has announced that it is ending service to Alexandria International Airport (AEX) in June. This is the second airport in Louisiana to lose service from United. The loss of this route connecting Alexandria to Houston will be devastating to our community. United's decision will force your constituents to have to travel significant distance to connect to our country's air transportation network, directly impacting economic growth for the 5<sup>th</sup> district. Put more directly, the loss of the United route to Houston means there is no airline coverage by United in the North Central and Northeastern parts of Louisiana. As a result, families and employees living in this region of the state would become isolated and forced to travel long distances to connect through Houston. United's decision will add hours to this journey.

The loss of service will also have negative downstream effects on Alexandria. England Airpark and Alexandria International Airport are important economic engines for our region and provide the community with essential air service to connect with Houston, Dallas, Atlanta, and Charlotte. Alexandria has been welcoming of airlines providing these critical routes for our citizens, especially our troops and their families at Fort Polk. Operations at England Airpark and AEX contribute over \$276 million in economic impact in Central Louisiana. With over 2,000 jobs associated with the Airpark's activities, it is essential to continue to support the economic development mission of the Airpark.

The American public spent billions of dollars to quickly support the aviation sector during the COVID pandemic. That important investment was made to ensure that air service would be preserved for the traveling public as the pandemic eased. We appreciate your attention to this matter and would ask that you do everything possible to ensure the residents of your district that utilize this vital route do not get left behind.

On behalf of England Airpark and Alexandria International Airport,

Sandra McQuain  
Executive Director

On behalf of the citizens in the 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District,

**ELECTED OFFICIALS**

Jeffrey W. Hall, Mayor  
City of Alexandria

Jay Luneau  
Louisiana State Senator, District 29

Lance Harris  
Louisiana State Representative, District 25

Mike Reese  
Louisiana State Senator, District 30

Ed Larvadain, III  
Louisiana State Representative, District 26

Louie Bernard  
Louisiana State Senator, District 31

Mike Johnson  
Louisiana State Representative, District 27

**BUSINESS & COMMUNITY LEADERS**

Robert Bash, CFII  
Central Louisiana Chamber of Commerce  
Board, Retired

Eric Lord, Market Director-Central Louisiana  
Regions Bank

Don Barker, Finance Director  
Christus Central Louisiana Surgical Hospital

Peter Orji, Alexandria Site Leader  
Procter & Gamble Manufacturing Company

Rich Brewer, PhD, MBA, President & CEO  
Louisiana Christian University

Deborah Randolph, President  
Central Louisiana Regional Chamber of Commerce

Blake Chatelain, President/CEO  
Red River Bank

Ben Russo, IMPE, Executive Director  
Central Louisiana Regional Port

Caitlin Chellette  
Executive Board President, Young  
Professionals Group of Alexandria  
Communications Content Creator,  
Roy O. Martin

Dr. Jimmy Sawtelle, Chancellor  
Central Louisiana Technical & Community College

Dr. Paul Coreil, Chancellor  
Louisiana State University of Alexandria

Kevin Simpson, Vice President/CFO  
Simpson Security Systems, LLC

Shane Hilton, President  
Cleco Power, LLC

Lee Weeks, Director of Operations  
Southern Air Heating & Cooling

Monte Wilson, CEO/President  
Christus St. Frances Cabrini Health Center