



Debbie Braun
President and CEO
Aspen Chamber Resort Association
590 N. Mill St. Aspen, CO 81611

Pitkin County Commissioners
Pitkin County Administration Building
530 E Main Street Aspen, CO 81611

Subject: Strong Support for the Aspen/Pitkin County Airport Forecast and Aircraft Fleet Mix

Dear Pitkin County Commissioners,

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Aspen Chamber Resort Association (ACRA) and its Board of Directors and Public Affairs Committee. As both the local destination management organization representing tourism in Pitkin County, as well as the chamber of commerce representing local business interests, we want to express our resolute support for the Aspen/Pitkin County Airport Layout Plan (ALP) process. We were very pleased to see the recent Airport Advisory Committee vote to approve and move forward the aviation forecast and fleet mix, which is an important milestone towards an updated ALP for the airport

We believe the decisions made regarding the airport's high-level blueprint are of utmost importance for the future of our county. By working toward ensuring commercial air service, and a new terminal, the BOCC is demonstrating a commitment to our tourism-based economy, while simultaneously maintaining quality of life amenities for our residents. This, in turn, secures local business vitality and reinforces job security within the area, particularly benefiting our arts and culture and hospitality industries. On the flip side, failure to move forward will undermine our ability to remain a vibrant, multifaceted community.

Pitkin County has always been a leader in climate action, and the process leading towards an updated ALP furthers that commitment by setting us up for newer technological advancements to reduce carbon emissions and evolve with the industry. In addition, the airport is part of our integrated public transit system, serving to reduce private vehicle trips into town and increase equity for residents who have difficulty accessing DEN or EGE. An ultimate plan for the redevelopment of the airport which integrates public transportation, ride-sharing, and other eco-friendly alternatives into the facility is a critical component of continued equity and access for all residents and visitors.

Decisions related to the airport may never reach complete consensus in our community. However, that same community has invested significant time and resources to develop a comprehensive and forward-thinking roadmap for the airport's future. It is imperative that we honor the outcomes of the ASE Vision process and the collective efforts invested in its success. The approved forecast and aircraft fleet mix puts us on course to develop an updated plan which reflects a well-balanced approach that incorporates the input of various stakeholders, the guidance of experts, and the requirements set forth by regulatory bodies such as the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

Thank you for your time and consideration. We trust that you will carefully weigh the importance of this matter and make the decision that will support future transportation options for our community. Decisive action favoring the ALP aviation forecast and fleet mix will demonstrate leadership, prioritize the best interests of our community, and uphold the integrity of the ASE process.

Sincerely,

Debbie Braun, President & CEO
Cristal Logan, Chair of the ACRA Board
Donnie Lee, Chair, Public Affairs Committee