

Nebraska Association of Airport Officials

Airport Sponsors, Consultants, and Users:

It is with great pleasure that I am afforded the opportunity to write this letter closing out 2023 with the success we have seen this year in NAAO as we championed for Airports in the State of Nebraska.

As we have for the last few years, we, with help from our Lobbyist, Mueller-Robak, brought forth Legislation to redirect the sales tax charged on aircraft sales and leasing to a Capitol Improvement Fund instead of the General Fund. Allowing the funds generated by our industry to support our industry. We were able to partner with Senator Eliot Bostar, who introduced our bill on our behalf. Senator Bostar, who is a pilot and a graduate of Embry-Riddle, saw the need and benefits that this change would provide our airports in Nebraska. While it took some creative thinking and lots of extra negotiations, we are happy to report that this legislation has passed and is currently being implemented.

The Nebraska DOT also proposed legislation allowing the DOT to pay the administrative costs of the Aeronautics Division. NAAO was able to testify and offer our knowledge and advice in this process. As with the sales tax legislation the process was not "Normal" but the result was still a win with the passing of this change in legislation, allowing the Division to explore other options to use their funding.

The Division also had its own changes with the hiring of the new Director, Jeremy Borrell. We have had numerous conversations with Director Borrell and think that he is a good fit for the Director position. He has taken over the State System Plan and we look forward to seeing it in its completed form that will give some guidance on areas that will best benefit from the monies we see coming from the legislation changes.

With the success we have had this year in the Legislature came many conversations with our state and local government officials. The opportunities to discuss with them our industry were numerous and we will continue to pursue these relationships to further the understanding of aviation in Nebraska.

In closing as always, enclosed is our membership form. We thank all of our past members for their support and would like to encourage new members to join us. We represent all airports in Nebraska, but can only do so with your backing. Thank you for a great year of success.

Nathan Masten, KLXN, President

Sandi Decker, KFBY, Vice-President

Dorothy Andersen, KHDE, Secretary