

1 **2024 NYSAC Fall Seminar**
2 **Standing Committee on Transportation and Public Works**
3 **Resolution #1**

4
5 **Resolution Supporting a New Round of Capital Funding for New York**
6 **Airports in the SFY 2026 Executive Budget Proposal**

7
8 **WHEREAS**, New York recently completed a \$250 million program to transform and
9 modernize fourteen airports in Upstate New York, fostering regional economic
10 development and helping the state meet the goals of the Climate Leadership and
11 Community Protection Act; and

12
13 **WHEREAS**, this initiative included \$230 million through the Upstate Airport
14 Economic Development and Revitalization Initiative for projects that promote and
15 accelerate improvements at upstate commercial passenger service airports, and another
16 \$20 million to be allocated through the Aviation Capital Grant Program to support
17 safety, infrastructure, economic development, and environmental projects at airports
18 throughout the state; and

19
20 **WHEREAS**, going forward, the State's 5-Year Transportation Capital Plan allocates
21 merely \$12.5 million per year for the Aviation Capital Grant Program over the remaining
22 three years of the plan for the support of New York airports; and

23
24 **WHEREAS**, the previous programs' funding levels were extremely successful in
25 revitalizing the upstate airports that were the recipients of awards, and complements the
26 ongoing work to transform LaGuardia and John F. Kennedy airports into world class
27 travel hubs; and

28
29 **WHEREAS**, according to data from the New York State Department of Transportation
30 and updated figures from the Port Authority of NY-NJ, the aviation industry contributes
31 over \$72.3 billion in annual economic activity in New York State and more than 506,372
32 New York based jobs in aviation or aviation-related industries, generates \$25.8 billion
33 in payroll and well over \$6 billion in state and local tax revenue annually; and

34
35 **WHEREAS**, the state has promoted economic development and generated tax
36 revenues by enacting the Aviation Jobs Act (AJA), which resulted in the location at New
37 York airports of numerous additional revenue-producing and job creating aircraft and
38 their aviation-related activities, according to NYSDOT data, and contributes to the
39 economic benefits to New York of public investment in aviation; and

40
41 **WHEREAS**, New York airports are at the forefront of efforts to reduce GHG emissions,
42 from installing rooftop solar energy generation and energy efficient lighting, to
43 converting operations that generate emissions to electric or other alternative clean fuels
44 where possible; and

1 **WHEREAS**, continued state funding will promote more of these climate initiatives and
2 assist airports in financing other vital environmental projects like those needed to
3 accommodate the transition by airlines to sustainable aviation fuels and support the
4 efforts by companies to develop electric aircraft; and

5
6 **WHEREAS**, airports are the front doors to our state, driving business and attracting
7 tourists from around the world. The rebuilding and modernization of New York airports
8 with a new round of robust aviation capital investment funding will allow for the
9 continued transformation of more of our airports into 21st century facilities, fueling
10 economic development, job growth and environmental sustainability for decades to
11 come.

12
13 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the New York State Association of
14 Counties urges the inclusion in the SFY 2026 Executive Budget of an appropriation
15 commensurate with the level of funding for the previous airport economic development
16 and revitalization initiatives (\$250 million) and accompanying increases over the next
17 three years for the Aviation Capital Grant Program, and the ultimate adoption of these
18 aviation investment levels in the final state budget; and

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20 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, copies of this resolution be sent to the counties of
21 New York State encouraging them to enact similar resolutions; and

22
23 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to
24 Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State Legislature and all others deemed
25 necessary and proper.