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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

May 18, 2023

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES  
SUBCOMMITTEES  
CHAIRMAN, OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS  
ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES

COMMITTEE ON  
OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY  
SUBCOMMITTEES  
HEALTH CARE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES  
NATIONAL SECURITY, THE BORDER AND  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS

The Honorable Sam Graves  
Chairman  
House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee  
2457 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Subject: Buckeye, Arizona

Dear Chairman Graves:

I am writing to express my strong support for including the attached amendment from House Legislative Counsel to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee's Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) reauthorization bill.

This legislative remedy will release the FAA's deed on a property known as the Buckeye 940 in what was formerly an auxiliary field for Luke Air Force Base (Luke Aux. 6). The 940 acres of encumbered land is located in Buckeye, Arizona which is the fastest growing city in the United States according to the 2020 Census increasing in population from 50,876 in 2010 to 91,502 in 2020. It continues to experience tremendous growth.

As you may know, Luke Air Force Base Auxiliary Field #6 was used in World War II to house military planes and for some time thereafter. In 1949, the General Services Administration (GSA) issued a quitclaim deed to the state of Arizona for the three parcels of lands that encompassed the Auxiliary Field known as the Buckeye 940. However, the 1949 deed carried a restriction that if the state doesn't use the land for airport purposes or sells then to a third party, the United States gains the proceeds. Unfortunately, this is antithetical to the Arizona State Constitution that requires the Arizona State Lands Department (ASLD) to use all proceeds from the disposition of property to be placed in the State Trust for education purposes. This legislative fix would rectify this problem and is supported by the FAA as they wrote in a March 8, 2023 letter to Arizona State Lands Commissioner Robin Sahid.

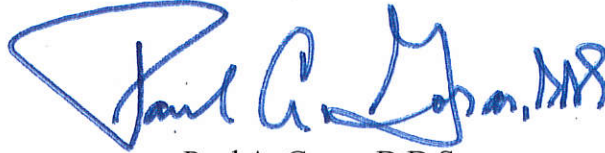
Because Buckeye is the fastest growing city in the United States, it desperately needs transportation corridors to effectively move people as well as commercial and residential development to service its growing population. State Lands, the current owner of the Auxiliary Field #6 property, wants to grant an easement to expand Yuma Road and Van Buren Street that are located within the property to help ease traffic congestion in the fast-growing part of the West Valley of Phoenix. However, without this deed transfer from FAA to Arizona State Lands, it simply cannot happen.

My staff and I have worked closely with FAA, Arizona State Lands, and the Arizona Attorney General's office to draft this important legislation and all support this agreed upon solution.

Therefore, I ask that you include this legislation in the upcoming FAA Reauthorization bill. It is supported by the majority of our congressional delegation as well as our two Arizona Senators.

Thanks for your consideration of this important request. In the meantime, please accept my best regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.". The signature is stylized and includes the letters "D.D.S." at the end.

Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.  
Member of Congress

Attachment

CC: The Honorable Garrett Graves, Chairman, Subcommittee on Aviation