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April 11, 2025

The Honorable Dave Cortese
Chair, Senate Transportation Committee
State Capitol, Room 405
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 661 (Hurtado), Airport Expansion and Regional Optimization (AERO) Act - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Cortese,

I am writing on behalf of the Kern County Board of Supervisors to express our strong support for SB 661 (Hurtado), the Airport Expansion and Regional Optimization (AERO) Act, which realigns a dedicated funding stream for California airports by leveraging aviation fuel sales tax revenue to support economic growth, workforce development, and enhanced access to transportation across California's airport, including Meadows Field Airport in Kern County.

California's airports serve as key economic engines, supporting jobs, boosting tourism, and fostering connectivity for residents and businesses across the state. However, many airports lack the necessary resources to modernize infrastructure, attract new air service routes, and meet growing passenger and cargo demands. By requiring the Department of Transportation to support airports statewide using existing funds, all airports and regions of the state will benefit.

SB 661 empowers airports to attract airlines, strengthen regional economies, and create high-quality job opportunities in aviation, logistics, hospitality, and related industries. For these reasons, we strongly support SB 661 and respectfully urge you and your colleagues to advance this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Leticia Perez".

Leticia Perez, Chair
Kern County Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Senate Transportation Committee
Honorable Members, Kern Legislative Delegation
Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange