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City of Newport
222 Main Street
Newport, Vermont 05855

February 7, 2022

Rep. Carolyn W. Partridge, Chair
Rep. Rodney Graham, Vice Chair
Rep. Thomas Bock
Rep. Terry Norris
Rep. John O'Brien
Rep. Henry Pearl
Rep. Heather Surprenant
Rep. Vicki Strong

Via Email

Dear Legislators,

I am writing on behalf of the City of Newport and the Northeast Kingdom International Airport Advisory Committee to ask for your support of H.610/S.278, a bill that proposes to change existing statute to exclude state owned airports from any mitigation requirements related to "prime agricultural soils".

The proposed legislation would be a positive step in continuing the economic development at the Northeast Kingdom International Airport in Coventry and would greatly help future economic development at all other state-owned airports. NVDA, our regional planning commission, was successful with our local District 7 Environmental Commission in having the 2:1 soil mitigation reduced to 1:1. This reduction certainly helped with the recent expansion at the airport in Coventry.

The City and the Airport Advisory Committee views the NEKIA as one piece of our economic future for the Northeast Kingdom and this bill clearly states that this would only apply to appropriate airport related projects.

Please let me know if the City and or Airport Advisory Committee can be of any assistance or if we can provide additional information regarding the Northeast Kingdom International Airport.

Sincerely,

Paul Monette, Mayor
City of Newport