

**Project Name:**

Rural Airport Reconstruction and Emergency Services Expansion

**Recipient:**

Lincoln County

**Address:**

512 California Avenue, Libby, MT 59922

**Amount Requested:**

\$820,319

**Project Explanation:**

The Troy Airport runway is in poor condition at-best, requiring extensive runway restoration and repair. This rural airport is vital to search and rescue, wildland firefighting efforts and medical flights within Northwest Montana. With the wildland fire trend in NW Montana, the need for a central location for deploying firefighting aircrafts and for a well-maintained runway is essential and cannot be overstated. The Troy Airport is situated close to many forested regions that are susceptible to wildland fire allowing for quick response time to extinguish fires before they spread further. A poorly maintained runway can have significant negative effects on airport operations and safety including the delay of firefighting efforts. Additionally, the 797 residents of Troy rely on the airport for air ambulance service as the closest trauma center is located more than 2 hours away in Kalispell.

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-2601**

May 8, 2024

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
H-307, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Committee  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**Re: Rural Airport Reconstruction and Emergency Services Expansion**

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for Rural Airport Reconstruction and Emergency Services Expansion in Fiscal Year 2025.

The entity to receive funding for this project is Lincoln County, located at 512 California Avenue, Libby, MT 59922.

The funding would be used for the Troy Airport Runway Reconstruction. The Project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the Troy Airport runway is in poor condition at-best, requiring extensive runway restoration and repair. This rural airport is vital to search and rescue, wildland firefighting efforts and medical flights within Northwest Montana. The need for a central location for deploying firefighting aircraft and for a well-maintained runway is essential and cannot be overstated. The airport is situated close to many forested regions that are susceptible to wildland fire allowing for quick response time to extinguish fires before they spread further. A poorly maintained runway can have significant negative effects on airport operations and safety including the delay of firefighting efforts. Additionally, the 797 residents of Troy rely on the airport for air ambulance service as the closest trauma center is located more than 2 hours away in Kalispell.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by section 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(2).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



Ryan Zinke  
Member of Congress