

Project Name:

Rural Airport Reconstruction and Emergency Services Expansion

Recipient:

Lincoln County

Address:

512 California Ave., Libby, MT 59923

Amount Requested:

\$820,319

Project Description:

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 23, 2025

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 Project

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Rural Airport Reconstruction and Emergency Services Expansion Project in Fiscal Year 2026.

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

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