

**AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT**

**118–11**

**OFFERED BY MR. MEUSER OF PENNSYLVANIA**

At the end of subtitle C of title VII, add the following:

1 **SEC. \_\_. ENHANCED FUNDING THROUGH THE SMALL COM-**  
2 **MUNITY AIR SERVICE DEVELOPMENT PRO-**  
3 **GRAM.**

4 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Transportation  
5 shall create a mechanism to provide additional funding to  
6 supports no more than 4 airports without air carrier serv-  
7 ice in developing a sustainable commercial market.

8 (b) **APPLICATION REQUIRED.**—To be eligible for ad-  
9 ditional funding established under subsection (a), the con-  
10 tracting entity shall certify to the Secretary that it meets  
11 all remaining applicable requirements in §41743.

12 (c) **CRITERIA FOR PARTICIPATION.**—In selecting  
13 communities, or consortia of communities, to receive addi-  
14 tional funding provided for under subsection (a), the Sec-  
15 retary shall apply the following criteria: On the date of  
16 submission of the relevant application under subsection  
17 (b), the airport serving the community or consortium—

1 (1) is not larger than a small hub airport, as  
2 determined using the Department of Transpor-  
3 tation's most recently published classification;

4 (2) was eligible to receive essential air service  
5 on or before January 1, 2008;

6 (3) either receives or previously received an  
7 award of assistance under the Small Community Air  
8 Service Development Program; and

9 (4) has not received any scheduled air transpor-  
10 tation, as such term is defined in section 40102 of  
11 title 49, United States Code, since January 1, 2022.

12 (d) PRIORITIES.—The Secretary shall give priority to  
13 communities or consortia of communities wherethe com-  
14 munity or consortium will provide a portion of the cost  
15 of the activity to be assisted under this subsection from  
16 local sources other than airport revenues;

17 (1) a community or consortium of is permitted  
18 to use outstanding assistance from the Small Com-  
19 munity Air Service Development Program for the  
20 purposes of satisfying (d)(1);

21 (2) previously awarded assistance cannot make  
22 up more than 75%; and

23 (3) the assistance awarded under this section  
24 shall be used to help restore scheduled passenger air  
25 service that has been terminated.

1           (e) **AUTHORITY TO MAKE AND TERMINATE AGREE-**  
2 **MENTS.**—The Secretary may make agreements to provide  
3 assistance under this section annually over a period of six-  
4 years. The Secretary may amend the scope of a grant  
5 agreement at the request of the community or consortium  
6 and any participating air carrier.

7           (f) **PERFORMANCE METRICS.**—An airport receiving  
8 funds under this section must prove a year-over-year in-  
9 crease of per service enplanements to continue receiving  
10 funds. The Secretary may terminate any agreement that  
11 does not meet this subsection.

12          (g) **AUTHORIZATION.**—There is authorized to be ap-  
13 propriated to the Secretary \$5,000,000 for each fiscal year  
14 following enactment through 2028 to carry out this sec-  
15 tion. Such sums shall remain available until expended.

16          (h) **ADDITIONAL ACTION.**—The Secretary shall work  
17 with air carriers providing service to Communities receiv-  
18 ing funds under subsection (a) and major air carriers (as  
19 defined in section 14. 41716(a)(2)) serving large hub air-  
20 ports to facilitate joint-fare arrangements consistent with  
21 normal industry practice.

22          (i) **DESIGNATION OF RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL.**—The  
23 Secretary shall designate an employee of the Department  
24 of Transportation—

1           (1) to function as a facilitator between small  
2 communities and air carriers;

3           (2) to carry out this section;

4           (3) to ensure that the Bureau of Transpor-  
5 tation Statistics collects data on passenger informa-  
6 tion to assess the service needs of small commu-  
7 nities;

8           (4) to work with and coordinate efforts with  
9 other Federal, State, and local agencies to increase  
10 the viability of service to small communities and the  
11 creation of aviation development zones; and

12           (5) to provide policy recommendations to the  
13 Secretary and Congress that will ensure that 26.  
14 small communities have access to quality, affordable  
15 air transportation services.

16       (j) AIR SERVICE DEVELOPMENT ZONE.—The Sec-  
17 retary shall designate an airport receiving funds under  
18 this section as an Air Service Development Zone and work  
19 with the community or consortium on means to attract  
20 business to the area surrounding the airport, to develop  
21 land use options for the area, and provide data, working  
22 with the Department of Commerce and other agencies.

23       (k) LIMITATIONS.—The Secretary shall not award  
24 funds under this section to a community for the purposes

1 of establishing a route more than 650 miles from an eligi-  
2 ble place.

3 (l) SUNSET.—This enhanced funding mechanism will  
4 sunset five years after the enactment of this bill.

