



HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF MICHIGAN

Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

1. The sponsoring representative's first name:
Karl
2. The sponsoring representative's last name:
Bohnak
3. The cosponsoring representatives' names. All cosponsors must be listed. If none, please type 'n/a.' A signed letter from the sponsor approving the co-sponsorship and a signed letter from the member wishing to co-sponsor are required. Attach letters at question #9 below.
N/A
4. Name of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
Lake Superior Community Partnership
5. Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
101 W Washington St Suite 10, Marquette, MI 49855
6. If there is not a specific recipient, the intended location of the project or activity:
Marquette Sawyer Regional Airport - 125 Ave G, Gwinn, MI 49841
7. Name of the representative and the district number where the legislatively directed spending item is located:
Rep. Karl Bohnak - 109th District
8. Purpose of the legislatively directed spending item. Please include how it provides a public benefit and why it is an appropriate use of taxpayer funding. Please also demonstrate that the item does not violate Article IV, S 30 of the Michigan Constitution.
This request seeks \$3 million in state support to strengthen air service and invest in infrastructure at Marquette Sawyer Regional Airport (MQT)—the largest and only market-based commercial airport in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. MQT is a vital transportation and economic asset that connects residents, businesses, and visitors to the rest of the country. This funding will ensure that the airport continues to provide reliable, accessible, and forward-looking air service at a time when regional air connectivity is being reshaped by national airline trends.

The investment will support four strategic priorities:

- **Sustaining Critical Air Service:** MQT provides direct connections to key hubs like Detroit and Chicago, which are critical for business, healthcare, education, and tourism. As airlines continue to reduce service to small and mid-sized markets due to pilot shortages, rising costs, and limited aircraft availability, this funding helps ensure service continuity and reliability for the entire Upper Peninsula region.
- **Expanding Air Service Options:** Following years of collaborative effort, MQT recently secured the return of direct service to Minneapolis-St. Paul (starting January 2025). This funding will build on that success by supporting route development studies, airline engagement, and early-stage incentives to attract additional routes that match strong visitor demand, including potential service to destinations like Denver, Orlando, and Charlotte.
- **Supporting Long-Term Strategic Planning:** MQT is a county-owned facility located on the site of the former K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base and represents one of the region's most significant infrastructure reuse and economic development success stories. This funding will support planning and coordination through regional partners—including the Lake Superior Community Partnership (LSCP)—to ensure the airport evolves alongside the needs of residents, employers, and public institutions.
- **Investing in Infrastructure to Enable Growth:** MQT already serves over 82,000 passengers and 5 million pounds of cargo annually and supports over 1.27 million annual visits from beyond 50 miles. Strategic upgrades to the terminal, airside facilities, and passenger services are needed to meet growing demand and position the airport for long-term success.

Public Benefit and Appropriateness of Taxpayer Support: Air service limitations are already affecting the region's ability to attract and retain workers, accommodate visitors, and grow local businesses. A strong, stable airport like MQT is foundational to realizing the Upper Peninsula's full economic potential. Major employers—including Eagle Mine, Cleveland-Cliffs, and UP Health System–Marquette (the region's only Level II trauma center)—rely on the airport for essential travel and cargo movement. The airport also plays a key role in supporting the U.P.'s growing tourism economy and the competitiveness of its manufacturing and higher education sectors.=

This is a publicly owned facility, and the proposed investment will benefit a broad cross-section of the public by improving access, reliability, and economic opportunity across the region. The project will be locally managed by Marquette County and the LSCP, a respected regional economic development organization with deep experience in delivering strategic air service solutions.

Constitutional Compliance: This request does not violate Article IV, Section 30 of the Michigan Constitution. The funds are not directed to a private entity, but instead to public and publicly accountable bodies for the advancement of a public asset. The expenditure is clearly aligned with the public purpose of promoting economic development, transportation access, and regional resilience.

9. Attach documents here if needed:

Attachments added to the end of this file.

10. The amount of state funding requested for the legislatively directed spending item.

3000000

11. Has the legislatively directed spending item previously received any of the following types of funding? Check all that apply.

["State","Local","Private"]

12. Please select one of the following groups that describes the entity requesting the legislatively directed spending item:

Non-profit organization

13. For a non-profit organization, has the organization been operating within Michigan for the preceding 36 months?

Yes

14. For a non-profit organization, has the entity had a physical office within Michigan for the preceding 12 months?

Yes

15. For a non-profit organization, does the organization have a board of directors?

Yes

16. For a non-profit organization, list all the active members on the organization's board of directors and any other officers. If this question is not applicable, please type 'n/a.'

David Aro (Secretary), Tonya Darner, Bryan DeAugustine (Treasurer) Rhea Dever (Vice Chair), Dana LaLonde, Susan Estler, Scott Knaffla (Chair), Sean Leahy, Brigitte LaPoint-Dunham, Robert Luke, Rick Rhoades, Mike Smith, Dave Symons

17. "I certify that neither the sponsoring representative nor the sponsoring representative's staff or immediate family has a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in the legislatively directed spending item."

Yes, this is correct

18. Anticipated start and end dates for the legislatively directed spending item:

Efforts underway currently; items under this particular investment would begin as soon as the funds are allocated

19. "I hereby certify that all information provided in this request is true and accurate."

Yes