



Monroe County Legislature

WILLIE J. LIGHTFOOT
LEGISLATOR - DISTRICT 27

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May 4, 2011

Authorities Budget Office
P.O. Box 2076
Albany, New York 12220-0076

To Whom It May Concern:

In the afternoon of Monday, May 2, I was provided a copy of the draft Authorities Budget Office (ABO) Monroe County Airport Authority report. This letter is provided as my response to the ABO report. Let me first say that I have been asking the Monroe County Airport Authority (MCAA) Board Chairman and Director for a copy of this report since mid-April, and the fact that I received it less than 24 hours before the MCAA Board meeting yesterday is emblematic of the problems uncovered in the ABO report. In fact, when I finally received the report, it was provided together with a response to the ABO from the current Airport Director which she indicated was being submitted "on behalf" of the Board.

I agree with the findings of the ABO report. As evidenced by the crafting of the Board's response by the Airport Director, the MCAA Board is not run independently from the control of the Monroe County Executive and her administration. As a member of the MCAA Board, I have never been provided with information in a timely manner, and even when the information is provided it is scant on detail. Unfortunately, I too often took the word of administration officials and other board members that everything was running smoothly—clearly the findings of this report show otherwise. In short, the Board is not able to exercise its own independent judgment on matters of importance to the airport.

The findings of this report show a situation where the administrative staff of the MCAA essentially has free reign, and a board that is either unable or unwilling to exercise their responsibilities. As for this board member, I would hope that the report's findings would be used to improve the way the Board operates, but, given the response to the report prepared by the Administrative Director, this seems highly unlikely. Unfortunately, I do not expect the Board to move to exercise meaningful oversight of the airport operations, and the status quo will remain intact—and that is a disservice to the public and taxpayers whom we are supposed to serve.



Thank you for the opportunity to provide this feedback. I look forward to reading the MCAA board's formal response once it is sent.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Willie Joe Lightfoot". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "W" and "J".

Willie Joe Lightfoot

Member, Monroe County Airport Authority Board

WJL/jer

Cc: James Vazzana, MCAA Chairman