



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

KIRK T. STEUDLE
DIRECTOR

December 17, 2015

Mr. Todd Cotter, Airport Manager
Charlotte-Fitch H. Beach Municipal Airport
111 E. Lawrence
Charlotte, Michigan 48813

Dear Mr. Cotter:

Subject: Airport Site Visit
Charlotte-Fitch H. Beach Municipal Airport

I wanted to write you today to tell you how impressed I was with the conditions we were able to observe during our unscheduled site visit to the airport this week. With my position with the Office of Aeronautics, I have had the privilege to visit numerous airports throughout the State of Michigan. Your airport ranks near the top in maintenance and attention to controlling vegetation in order to maintain clear approaches and safety areas. Reviewing all of the safety critical items you were able to give attention to by partnering and working with the City Administration and Maintenance personnel was very impressive.

The community of Charlotte and the surrounding area are very fortunate to have a general aviation airport that is so well maintained. You have an exceptional emphasis on aviation safety and efficiency while minimizing the cost of the removal of potential hazards by working closely with the resources you have available. It is recognized that this has been made possible with the leadership of City Manager Gregg Guetschow and Community Development Director Bryan Myrkle. Their steady hand in the development of the airport helps overcome many of the challenges faced by general aviation airports. It takes that type of leadership and forward planning to make it possible to have an airport that ranks as one of the best in the state. Mr. Guetschow's and Mr. Myrkle's foresight of the airport's long term maintenance cost, while maximizing the available funding using a well thought out plan, saves the City, State and the Federal Aviation Administration future spending on the airport's capital improvement needs. This type of leadership puts the airport in a good position well into the future.

Please share this letter with your partners at the City of Charlotte to let them know how much I appreciate their efforts in maintaining the Charlotte-Fitch H. Beach Municipal Airport to the highest of standards. All of your efforts are outstanding and your interests in aviation safety is very apparent. It is not every day that I hear of such a great relationship between airport administrators, sponsoring municipal administration and maintenance personnel. Your professional partnership is a model of success and I want to give you all my highest compliments.

Please contact our office if we can ever be of any assistance to you.

Best Regards,

Linn P. Smith
Airport Planning and Zoning Specialist
MDOT - Office of Aeronautics

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