

April 21, 2025

Mr. Wolfgang Rittgers
President
Driftless Regional Youth Flight
P.O. Box 751
La Crosse, Wisconsin, 54602-0751

Subject: Letter of Support and Intent for Driftless Region Youth Flight

Dear Mr. Rittgers,

The La Crosse Regional Airport and Aviation Board offers this continuing letter of support to Driftless Region Youth Flight (DRYF) in establishing a proposed Science, Engineering, Technology, and Math (STEM) program focused on airframe and powerplant (A&P) education at the airport.

Due to the critical nationwide shortage of A&P mechanics and its negative impacts upon the national aviation system, the Airport and Aviation Board wholeheartedly supports DRYF's efforts to provide a pathway for students to embark on an A&P mechanic career.

The Airport and Aviation Board are committed to supporting DRYF's mission by leasing an 12,000 square foot hangar, located at 2837 Fanta Reed Road, which is suitable for the proposed STEM program. This hangar parcel consists of 22,507 square feet of land and is tentatively offered to DRYF for its use, subject to availability, at an initial annual rental rate of \$0.3433 per square foot per year (\$7,726.65 annual rent).

DRYF, the Airport, and the Aviation Board have agreed in principle to the following, subject to final lease approval by La Crosse Common Council.

1. The Airport and Aviation Board recommend a 20-year lease term, subject to final lease term negotiation, and approval by La Crosse Common Council.
2. The Airport and Aviation Board commits to initiate lease negotiations for the hangar parcel once DRYF fundraising reaches \$500,000.
3. Upon notification DRYF has raised \$1,000,000, the Airport and Aviation Board will initiate the lease approval process, given that not less than six months has passed since being notified that \$500,000 has been raised.



4. DRYF has committed to complete needed hangar improvements of not less than \$1,000,000 minimum and meet all applicable building codes for its use.

The Airport and Aviation Board recognize fund-raising and establishing a successful non-profit vocational training program is a time and resources-consuming process that is further impacted by external political and economic factors.

This 12-month renewal letter of support is effective April 1, 2025, through April 1, 2026. Further renewals must be approved by the Airport and Aviation Board on an annual basis.

Please do not hesitate to contact me directly at trippj@lseairport.com or 608-789-7456 with any questions related to this matter.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey S. Tripp, A.A.E.
Airport Director

Cc: Mayor Shaundel Washington-Spivey
Tamra Dickinson, Common Council Member and Aviation Board Chair
La Crosse Regional Airport Aviation Board
Lauren Koss, Deputy Airport Director
JD Roberts, Airport Business Manager

