

Washington, DC -- U.S. Representative Michael A. Arcuri (D-Utica) announced today that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has awarded Oneida County \$2,859,500 to improve taxiway lighting and signage at Griffiss Airfield in Rome, NY, through the federal Airport Improvement Program (AIP).

“Griffiss Airfield is a key part of economic growth and development in the Mohawk Valley, and I am pleased to announce federal funding to maintain a high level of safety and service,” **said Arcuri, a member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee which is responsible for authorizing funds for the FAA**

. “These funds will improve taxiway lighting and signage so that Griffiss can continue to serve and improve our region in the safest way. I will continue to support development efforts at Griffiss Airfield and work to ensure federal funding for critical investments in transportation infrastructure throughout the Mohawk Valley.”

Federal funding announced by Arcuri will be used for the removal and replacement of existing taxiway edge lights including the installation of new guidance signs and markings at Griffiss Airfield. Replacing the existing lighting and marking system will improve the safety and reliability of the taxiway system.

Oneida County Executive Anthony J. Picente, Jr. said, “The transformation taking place at Griffiss Park is laying the foundation for lasting economic success in our region. This funding secured by Congressman Arcuri will help Oneida County develop high-quality aviation facilities that will serve as a regional catalyst for growth. I want to thank Congressman Arcuri for securing these much-needed federal dollars that will help us build a stronger County.”

These improvements will also benefit the Empire Aero Center, located at Griffiss airfield, which repairs and overhauls aircrafts for customers that include Virgin America, JetBlue, Air Canada, and USA 3000. Empire Aero has about 400 employees at its Rome facility, which opened in 2004. The company chose to locate at Griffiss because the 2 1/8 mile long runway, hangars and tarmac space can accommodate large aircraft.

Air operations for Oneida County were consolidated at Griffiss following a \$17 million commitment from the federal government. This additional funding will continue to improve the quality of services and scope of operations at Griffiss.

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