



**APPROVED**

September 19, 2022 ✓

Jay Norris, Director  
TDOT Aeronautics Division  
7335 Centennial Boulevard  
Nashville, TN 37209 ✓

*[Signature]* 09/28/2022

*John Paul Saalwaechter* 2022.09.28  
15:18:59 -05'00

Re: Direct Appropriation

Dear Mr. Norris,

I am writing to request the \$11,000,000 direct appropriation grant set aside in the State's FY23 budget. The City of Oak Ridge is excited for the opportunities that this funding creates. The appropriation allows the city to purchase property necessary for the construction of the new General Aviation Airport at the East Tennessee Technology Park in Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

The airport will support general aviation in the Oak Ridge Corridor region, as current capacity is limited in this market and does not support projected growth and future demand. The proposed airport will support growth in the business, industrial, and tourism sectors and allow leaders to fly to Oak Ridge, putting the City on the map for technology companies. The airport will incentivize industry developing nearby.

The airport will leverage existing assets and strengthen the region's manufacturing base. A secondary goal is the diversification of the Oak Ridge and Roane County economies that will be negatively impacted by anticipated long-term reductions in federal employment that currently numbers approximately 12,000 jobs. Specifically, the design and construction of a new Oak Ridge Airport at the ETTP will support the objective of new manufacturing investment with high-growth potential in the emerging carbon fiber and alternative energy industries.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact us at (865) 425-3550 or [mwatson@oakridgetn.gov](mailto:mwatson@oakridgetn.gov).

Sincerely,

*Mark S. Watson* *[Signature]* ✓

Dr. Mark S. Watson  
City Manager

Cc: John-Paul Saalwaechter, Project Manager  
Ryan Healey, Program Monitor

