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Thank You Community! Airport Air Service Initiative Exceeds Goal of \$5M – Final Interest Valued at 6.3 Million Annually for Use of Daily Airlines at YNG

The Youngstown-Warren Regional Airport's (YNG) "Travel Bank – Air Service Initiative" has exceeded its goal by reaching **over \$6 Million** in "non-binding" pledges and other forms of interest from 230 businesses, organizations and individuals since the program was announced in September. The intended goal was to acquire \$3 - \$5 Million in pledges through the end of the year in support or returning daily scheduled airline service for the community at the Youngstown-Warren Regional Airport. The Airport, Regional Chamber, YNGAir Partners and the Community have been working aggressively to reestablish regularly scheduled commercial air service at the local Airport..

Dan Dickten, Director of Aviation at the Youngstown-Warren Regional Airport stated, "the purpose of the Travel Bank is to quantify travel demand for the airline that is otherwise unquantifiable. The Travel Bank is simply a list of "non-binding" pledges made by local businesses, organizations, large employers, and even individuals who travel frequently, that state what each entity will spend annually on new air service should it be initiated from the local airport. . The great response received by local businesses and other frequent travelers shows the airlines that the local community is very supportive of using the local airport for daily scheduled airline service. Thanks to all who participated"

Eric Planey with the Youngstown/Warren Regional Chamber remarked, "this has been a team effort through and through. The business community has once again shown their support for the Valley by indicating they would use daily service at Youngstown-Warren Regional Airport. Further, thanks goes out to all our partners in this effort, including the Salem Chamber, Mercer and Lawrence Chambers, and Ashtabula Growth Partnership".

Tom Reich of AvPorts, the Airport's Air Service Development Consultant, added "this travel bank is proof positive that the community wants better air access to the world via the Youngstown-Warren Regional Airport. A special thanks goes out to every business that has pledged support to this worthy endeavor. There is a clear need for daily air service in the Mahoning Valley now more than ever and with the overwhelming community support for this travel bank it brings us one step closer to making daily air service a reality."

The Airport Staff and the Western Reserve Port Authority would thank the Regional Chamber, Mercer PA Chamber, Ashtabula Economic Development, Salem Chamber, YNGAir Partners, the local businesses and frequent travelers for their overwhelming support of the Travel Bank Initiative. This support for daily scheduled service at the Youngstown-Warren Regional Airport it a testament of the community's desire to travel from its local YNG Airport and tell the Airlines if they bring their service here to the Youngstown-Warren-Sharon Region.