



Please vote YES on SB 16-168

**Local Government Authority to Allow Jurisdictions
Outside of Colorado to Be Part of an Airport Authority
Sponsors: Sen. Roberts/Rep. Brown**

Counties and municipalities in Colorado currently own and operate more than half of the 76 public use airports throughout the state. These facilities are an integral part of the regional transportation system and are essential to continued economic development in our communities. Local governments are authorized in statute to enter into agreements with neighboring jurisdictions to jointly acquire, construct, lease, maintain and operate these airports and landing fields. What is **not** authorized in statute is the ability to partner with a jurisdiction across state lines to operate an airport – even if that jurisdiction is a key user of that regional airport.

The City of Durango and La Plata County currently operate the Durango-La Plata County Airport in Southwest Colorado. This airport is the fifth busiest in the state, with almost 400,000 travelers flying in or out each year. A significant percentage of these travelers come from New Mexico – primarily in the Farmington area just across the border. Durango and La Plata County are seeking to partner with the City of Farmington and San Juan County (NM) to better plan for and finance future expansion of this critical regional airport. The state of New Mexico already allows these jurisdictions to partner across state lines with local governments in Colorado.

SB 168 would grant local governments in Colorado the authority to allow local governments across state lines to work cooperatively on the joint operation of an airport authority. **CCI and CML urge your support of this legislation to allow local governments to partner across state lines with neighboring jurisdictions to operate and fund regional airports.**

CCI and CML ask for your YES vote on SB 16-168

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