ALBANY COUNTY LEGISLATURE
HAROLD L. JOYCE ALBANY COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
112 STATE STREET
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12207

August 22nd, 2024

Albany County Airport Authority
737 Albany Shaker Rd
Albany, NY 12211

Members of the Albany County Airport Authority Board,

We, the undersigned, are a bipartisan group of Albany County Legislators concerned about recent events at the Albany County Airport. We write urging you to renew the contract of Philip Calderone as Chief Executive Officer of the Albany County Airport Authority.

As you know, the Airport is in the midst of a $100 million dollar renovation and expansion project. This process, and the capital investments behind it, received enthusiastic support from the County Legislature as well as numerous stakeholders at various levels of government and private industry. A significant part of that enthusiastic support was a result of the clear confidence our body has in Mr. Calderone as leader of the Airport Authority, and our belief that he had the necessary vision and expertise to bring this large project to completion. The inexplicable decision to not renew Mr. Calderone's contract has clearly had a negative impact on the confidence that both officials and the public have in the Authority, thereby adding unneeded turbulence during a major transitory time for the Airport and our County.

The Authority has committed to an open hiring process as it supposedly looks to cast a wide net to find its next Chief Executive. This process will likely cost hundreds of thousands of dollars inclusive of both time and cost of retaining an outside firm to conduct the search. We suggest that the Authority forego this process and simply choose the most experienced and most familiar candidate available to it – Philip Calderone. It is not too late for the Authority to reverse its decision and tender Mr. Calderone a new contract, and we urge you to do exactly that. We understand that board members may no longer be comfortable with Mr. Calderone and feel that they can no longer work with him after recent events; perhaps those members should consider removing their name from consideration for another term on the board.

Sincerely,

Samuel Fein
Albany County Legislator
District 6

Beroro T. Efekoro
Albany County Legislator
District 7

Andrew Joyce
Albany County Legislator
District 9

Raymond F. Joyce
Albany County Legislator
District 13

Todd Drake
Albany County Legislator
District 19

David B. Mayo
Albany County Legislator
District 20

Jennifer A. Whalen
Albany County Legislator
District 21

Paul J. Burgdorf
Albany County Legislator
District 23

Ryan Conway
Albany County Legislator
District 25

Patrice Lockart
Albany County Legislator
District 26

Frank A. Mauriello
Albany County Legislator
District 27

Mark Grimm
Albany County Legislator
District 28

Jeff Perlee
Albany County Legislator
District 31

William Reinhardt
Albany County Legislator
District 33

Matthew J. Miller
Albany County Legislator
District 36

Zach Collins
Albany County Legislator
District 37