House Committee on Appropriations
The Honorable Tom Cole

H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

House Committee on Appropriations
The Honorable Rosa DeLaura

1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

On behalf of AEVEX Aerospace, we write to express our strong support for the University of South Florida's request for Community Project Funding to establish an AI-Assisted Gust Wind Tunnel for Advanced Air Mobility.

This project represents a forward-looking investment in national defense, transportation safety, and economic competitiveness. Only a limited number of gust wind tunnels currently operate in the United States, and existing facilities face technical constraints that limit their ability to simulate realistic, high-intensity atmospheric conditions. The proposed USF facility would incorporate actively controlled gust and turbulence generation integrated with artificial intelligence, enabling real-time testing and optimization of aircraft and unmanned systems operating in complex environments.

For our community, the benefits are substantial. The Tampa Bay region has a strong and growing aerospace and defense presence, supported by military installations, advanced manufacturers, and emerging technology firms. Establishing this facility will strengthen that ecosystem by attracting federal research funding, defense contracts, private-sector partnerships, and high-skilled jobs. It will also create workforce pathways for students pursuing careers in aerospace engineering, artificial intelligence, and advanced manufacturing—fields critical to maintaining American technological leadership.

From a national perspective, this investment enhances defense readiness and aviation safety. The facility will support research into drone survivability, advanced propulsion systems, automated flight controls, noise reduction technologies, and other capabilities essential to both military and civilian applications. By expanding domestic testing infrastructure, the project helps ensure that next-generation aerospace innovation remains within the United States.

We believe this proposal represents a strategic and responsible use of federal funds. It leverages regional strengths, supports national security priorities, stimulates economic growth, and positions the United States at the forefront of advanced air mobility research.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration of this important request. We respectfully urge your support for Community Project Funding for the USF AI-Assisted Gust Wind Tunnel for Advanced Air Mobility project.

Sincerely,

Manan Patel
Chief Technology Officer

mpatel@aevex.com

3/3/2026

House Committee on Appropriations
The Honorable Tom Cole
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

House Committee on Appropriations
The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

On behalf of ControlX, we write to express our strong support for the University of South Florida's request for Community Project Funding to establish an AI-Assisted Gust Wind Tunnel for Advanced Air Mobility.

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Thank you for your leadership and consideration of this important request. We respectfully urge your support for Community Project Funding for the USF AI-Assisted Gust Wind Tunnel for Advanced Air Mobility project.

Sincerely,

Mehrdad Pakmehr

Mehrdad Pakmehr, PhD
CEO at ControlX, Inc.
P: 678-848-7514
E: mp@controlx.systems

the
florida
high tech
corridor

March 3, 2026

House Committee on Appropriations
The Honorable Tom Cole
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

House Committee on Appropriations
The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

On behalf of the Florida High Tech Corridor, we write to express our strong support for the University of South Florida's request for Community Project Funding to establish an AI-Assisted Gust Wind Tunnel for Advanced Air Mobility.

The Florida High Tech Corridor is an economic development initiative of three of the country's largest research institutions: University of South Florida, University of Central Florida, and University of Florida. Our mission is to grow high tech industry and innovation – and the workforce to support it – in a 23-county region spanning the state. We facilitate collaborations between partners in academia, industry, and economic development to create communities with unlimited potential.

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36 West Pine St.
Orlando, FL 32801

floridahightech.com

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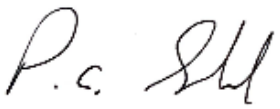
Thank you for your leadership and consideration of this important request. We respectfully urge your support for Community Project Funding for the USF AI-Assisted Gust Wind Tunnel for Advanced Air Mobility project.

Sincerely,



Paul A. Sohl, Rear Adm. USN (ret)
CEO, Florida High Tech Corridor

36 West Pine St.
Orlando, FL 32801

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Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

On behalf of Pratt & Whitney, we write to express our strong support for the University of South Florida's request for Community Project Funding to establish an AI-Assisted Gust Wind Tunnel for Advanced Air Mobility.

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Thank you for your leadership and consideration of this important request. We respectfully urge your support for Community Project Funding for the USF AI-Assisted Gust Wind Tunnel for Advanced Air Mobility project.

Sincerely,

Adrian Larrea

Principal Design Engineer | F-135 Nozzle
Pratt & Whiney, Hot Section Engineering

GO BEYOND

SARASOTA MANATEE AIRPORT AUTHORITY

SARASOTA
BRADENTON
INTERNATIONAL

6000 Rick Piccolo Circle
Sarasota, Florida 34243-2105
Telephone (941) 359-2770
flysrq.com

March 3, 2026

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The Honorable Tom Cole
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

House Committee on Appropriations
The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

On behalf of Sarasota Manatee Airport, we write to express our strong support for the University of South Florida's request for Community Project Funding to establish an AI-Assisted Gust Wind Tunnel for Advanced Air Mobility.

This project represents a forward-looking investment in national defense, transportation safety, and economic competitiveness. Only a limited number of gust wind tunnels currently operate in the United States, and existing facilities face technical constraints that limit their ability to simulate realistic, high-intensity atmospheric conditions. The proposed USF facility would incorporate actively controlled gust and turbulence generation integrated with artificial intelligence, enabling real-time testing and optimization of aircraft and unmanned systems operating in complex environments.

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Thank you for your leadership and consideration of this important request. We respectfully urge your support for Community Project Funding for the USF AI-Assisted Gust Wind Tunnel for the Advanced Air Mobility project.

Sincerely,

Paul. Hoback Jr.
President, Chief Executive Officer

39514 Aviation Ave, Zephyrhills. FL 33542

House Committee on Appropriations
The Honorable Tom Cole
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

House Committee on Appropriations
The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

On behalf of SilverLight Aviation and SilverLight Engineering, we write to express our strong support for the University of South Florida's request for Community Project Funding to establish an AI-Assisted Gust Wind Tunnel for Advanced Air Mobility.

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Thank you for your leadership and consideration of this important request. We respectfully urge your support for Community Project Funding for the USF AI-Assisted Gust Wind Tunnel for Advanced Air Mobility project.

Sincerely,

Abid Farooqui, President
e-mail: abid@silverlightaviation.com
Ph: (813)-345-1727

TRU SIMULATION

TRANSFORM YOUR REALITY

House Committee on Appropriations
The Honorable Tom Cole
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

House Committee on Appropriations
The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

On behalf of TRU Simulation, we write to express our strong support for the University of South Florida's request for Community Project Funding to establish an AI-Assisted Gust Wind Tunnel for Advanced Air Mobility.

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Thank you for your leadership and consideration of this important request. We respectfully urge your support for Community Project Funding for the USF AI-Assisted Gust Wind Tunnel for Advanced Air Mobility project.

Sincerely,

Gerald Missaris

P: 813.792.9300 | 1827 Northpointe Parkway, Suite 100 | Lutz, FL 33558 | trusimulation.com