



BOARD OF ALDERMEN
CITY OF SAINT LOUIS
MISSOURI

January 30, 2018

Members of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment,

In April 2017, the Federal Aviation Administration accepted St. Louis's application to be part of the Airport Pilot Privatization Program (APPP). Since that time, City officials have selected an advisory team to navigate that process. We come to you with grave concerns about the selection of that team and inherent flaws in the process to evaluate the city's options under the APPP.

St. Louis Lambert International Airport is on track to possibly become the first airport in mainland USA to be privatized under the APPP, but if we continue to move forward under our current course, it will be under a shroud of secrecy, a lack of transparency, glaring conflicts of interest, and widespread public mistrust. The City should only move forward with privatization, including a lease agreement to a private entity, if it meets the best interests of the public. At this time, we fail to see how this process serves the public's best interest and the long-term economic health of the airport.

Following acceptance into the APPP, City officials determined that the City alone could not navigate the APPP process and that an advisory team would be needed. This is expected practice on such a technical project. However, to engage an Advisory Team, the City only considered teams willing to forgo any payment unless and until the team recommends the privatization of the St. Louis Lambert International Airport. This framework tilts the scales towards privatization. Additionally, it is no surprise that the winning team is funded by a local billionaire and his consulting team, Grow Missouri, Inc., who have actively advocated for privatization. Grow Missouri, Inc. was not only awarded the contract, but was the sole full proposal that also met the "payment upon privatization" provision.

Local media have already revealed potential conflicts of interest. The Chief of Staff for the previous Mayor (under whom this process began) now works for the selected advisor, Grow Missouri, Inc. The consultant team is believed to contain former staff members of the previous Mayor, and other individuals associated with Grow Missouri, Inc. This appearance of quid pro quo politics between the City and

one of the most prolific campaign donors in Missouri cannot be the type of practice the City of St. Louis is seen to be engaging in.

The Airport Director, the Airport Commission, the Board of Aldermen, and the general public have been largely left out of the process. There is not a single member of the selection committee that has any experience running an airport. St. Louis Lambert International Airport has seen consistent growth in passenger and freight traffic in recent years, and substantial capital improvements under the airport's current leadership.

The general public has expressed deep concerns over the process and the advisory team. As representatives elected to advocate for and represent the best interests of our constituents, it is our duty to act upon these concerns regarding the overall lack of transparency and openness. While there remain many unknowns about privatization in a general sense, we all do agree that an honest, transparent, genuine exploration of the concept could be beneficial for the City of St. Louis and for the American airport industry in general.

Based on above concerns we are requesting that the Board of E&A reject the Airport Selection Committee's recommendation. We furthermore ask that a new selection committee be convened and that a new RFP be issued, inclusive of input from the Airport leadership, the Airport Commission, the Board of Aldermen and the general public.

Respectfully,

Larry Arnowitz
Brandon Bosley
Jeffery Boyd
Pam Boyd
Shane Cohn
John Collins-Muhammed
Megan Green
Dan Guenther
Carol Howard
Christine Ingrassia
Sarah Martin
Lisa Middlebrook
Beth Murphy
Scott Ogilvie
Heather Navarro
Cara Spencer
Sharon Tyus
Frank Williamson