

News from U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC)

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US House of Representatives – Washington, DC

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Spratt Lands \$1 Million for Dillon County Airport

WASHINGTON – U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC) announced today that he has secured \$1 million for construction of a new airport in Dillon County. The funds were included in the omnibus spending bill passed by Congress on November 20; the president's signature is expected soon.

Dillon County's current airport consists of a 3,000-foot runway, modest hangar facilities, and space for tie-down of approximately 50 planes. But in its current location, the airport is boxed in by highways, commercial buildings, and private residential property, with little room to expand.

"Dillon County has embarked upon an economic development initiative, which includes a one-cent sales tax increase to finance the creation of a new industrial park," said Spratt. "This park has ready water and sewer and is well positioned near I-95, but the lack of a well equipped airport could handicap its appeal."

Dillon County has identified a site for a new airport on S.C. Highway 34, on the opposite side of I-95 from the industrial park, and has applied to the FAA for certification.

Preliminary plans show a new airport with a 5,500-foot runway that can accommodate corporate jets, new terminal and hangar facilities, and still offer room to expand. "The combination of a new industrial park with this airport nearby should be an economic boost to Dillon County, which is running a 12.5% unemployment rate and is sorely in need of new jobs and development," Spratt said.

Dillon County has invested \$500,000 in cash for the project and put up \$2 million in in-kind contributions. The State of South Carolina has also agreed to chip in 5% of total project costs.

"I am pleased to see Congress respond to Dillon County's request for help. We now need to convince the Federal Aviation Administration of the merits of this new airport," said Spratt.

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