

STATEMENT OF THE DIRECTOR
CMC AIRPORT LEASE
JUNE 6, 2024

First, I would like to thank the Delaware River & Bay Authority for their efforts at the Cape May County Airport over the past 25 years. While the Board is issuing a notice today so that the lease does not automatically renew, we remain willing to engage in further discussions with the DRBA about them continuing to operate the airport into the future. Those discussions, however, will focus on ensuring that the priorities and initiatives of this Board are addressed and resolved in a manner that is in the best interests of the residents and visitors of Cape May County.

If we took no action today, the vast majority of the airport would remain under DRBA control for another 30-years, and the County would have to convince the DRBA's Delaware-based Administration and bi-state Board of Commissioners to agree and support the priorities and initiatives of our County. The County owns 100% of airport land, and our residents deserve that it's used in a manner that serves their best interests first and foremost, and without compromise.

This decision is not taken lightly by the Board, and it could come with great investment from the County, but that investment also comes with tremendous opportunities to address some of the most pressing issues facing our residents. We are fully committed to addressing those issues.

Additionally, the County is regaining control of more than 1000 acres of land, capital improvements, and dozens of revenue-generating properties. There has been substantial work completed at the airport over the past several years, and we are committed to continuing this trend in a way that addresses the County's initiatives, while not over-burdening our budget or taxpayers. The County is in strong financial health, and while taking back control of this land comes at an investment, the County will remain in strong financial health and continue to have one of the lowest tax rates in the State.

While we are still in the research stages and substantial work still needs to be done, we are confident in this decision and excited about the opportunities that lie ahead. The airport grounds are a great asset to our County, and we need to ensure that every effort is made to utilize them in a manner that places our residents first. We are doing that today.

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