

Letters to the Editor  
*USA Today*  
7950 Jones Branch Road  
McLean, VA 22108-0605

To the Editor:

EAA was disappointed to again see *USA Today's* failure to present the total picture when it comes to airport funding, in regards to Thomas Frank's November 2 articles.

The stories failed to acknowledge that each airport, whether or not it has airline service, is an important link within the nation's transportation infrastructure. The continuing inference that the only airports that are worthy of support are those with commercial service is similar to saying the only roads worth maintaining are those used by passenger buses.

Airlines are vital and serve dozens of communities, but general aviation serves hundreds more – places where air carriers cannot or will not make passenger service viable. Support for local airports makes economic development a greater possibility for those communities, and also serves as a necessary network of facilities that takes pressure off major metropolitan commercial airports.

According to FAA's own figures, airports with airline services already receive the vast majority of funding – seven times the amount that each general aviation airport receives on a yearly basis. Aviation fuel taxes paid by general aviation users have also annually exceeded the grants distributed for all airport improvements.

GA users also pay five times more fuel taxes as the airlines to support the air traffic control system – of which the airlines are the overwhelming primary user.

We know the reporters and editors at *USA Today* have been supplied with this information. Why it has not been included to present the full picture is a disservice to the newspaper's readers.

Sincerely,

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Experimental Aircraft Association  
Oshkosh, Wis.