

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

August 24, 2020

The Honorable Stephen Dickson
Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20591

Dear Administrator Dickson,

We write to you today with our full support for Monroe County's application request to change the Greater Rochester International Airport to the Frederick Douglass International Airport as a tribute to one of our greatest local legacies and to honor the impact he has had on our nation.

Frederick Douglass was one of the leading voices for human rights in the 19th century. Throughout his life, Douglass was a leader of the abolitionist movement, human rights advocate, social reform, and women's suffrage movement. After escaping from slavery in Maryland, Frederick Douglass became one of the greatest historical figures within the nation.

Douglass called Rochester home from 1847 to 1872. Here he published his newspaper, The North Star. During this time, he became an advisor to President Abraham Lincoln. He supported women's suffrage alongside Susan B. Anthony and much more. He moved his family to Washington D.C, after his house burned down on South Avenue. Frederick Douglass died on February 20, 1895 and laid to rest forever here in Rochester at the Mount Hope Cemetery.

In 2018, the City of Rochester celebrated 200 years since the birth of Frederick Douglass, in his honor they placed 13 monuments throughout the city. Highlighting his courageousness, perseverance, and unwavering leadership during our country's time of need. Born enslaved, he fought tirelessly to change the condition of society and advocated for those who were oppressed. Renaming the airport will continue to honor his legacy and dedication towards equal rights for all.

We wholeheartedly believe renaming Rochester's airport to Frederick Douglass International Airport will honor one of our country's greatest leaders and we offer our full support.

Sincerely,



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Joseph D. Morelle
United States Congressman



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator