

Grant will Be Used to Design Safeguards in Event of Plane Overrunning Runway

Washington, DC— Today, U.S. Congressman Steve Israel (D-NY) announced \$1.091 million in new federal funds to improve runway safety at Republic Airport in Farmingdale, NY. The grant, from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), will be used to design safeguards for passengers and the surrounding area in the event that a plane overruns the runway.

“With the growth of the Route 110 corridor surrounding Republic Airport, safety at the airport is all the more important,” said U.S. Congressman Steve Israel. “These funds will maximize available space at Republic Airport to ensure the maximum safety of air passengers and the surrounding community in the event that a plane overruns the runway.”

The new funding will improve the runway safety area of Republic Airport through the design and construction of an “engineered material arresting system” (EMA) at each end of the runway. While the FAA requires that all commercial airports have a standard runway safety area of 1,000 feet, many were constructed before this regulation was adopted 20 years ago. According to the FAA, many airports cannot achieve the standard “due to obstacles such as bodies of water, highways, railroads and populated areas or severe drop-off of terrain.”

EMAs provide safety benefits in cases where the runway safety area of an airport cannot be expanded. The technology uses often lightweight material of “closely controlled strength and density placed at the end of a runway to stop or greatly slow an aircraft that overruns the runway.”

The new funds will support phase I of the design and construction process of two EMAs for each end of Runway 14/32 at Republic Airport. EMA technology is currently used on 30 runways at 21 airports in the U.S. including J.F.K. and LaGuardia airports.