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SCHUMER HELPS SECURE \$1 MILLION FOR PLATTSBURGH AERONAUTICAL INSTITUTE

Senator Aggressively Lobbied Conference Committee To Include Funding In Spending Bill

U.S. Senator Charles E. Schumer today announced that the Senate-House Conference Committee approved \$1 million under the FY06 Commerce, Justice and Science Appropriations Act for the Plattsburgh Aeronautical Institute. The bill must now be approved by the full Senate and House before being signed into law by the President. Schumer had aggressively lobbied members of the Conference Committee to include funding for the project in this year's spending bill.

"This is great news for Plattsburgh and the entire North Country," Schumer said. "This will be the seed money for establishing the Aeronautical Institute at the Plattsburgh International Airport and it begins to serve the needs of the region. I will continue to fight for federal funds to help the airport as it becomes a thriving center of activity and a hub for economic growth in the region."

In response to anticipated local and state-wide business and industry training needs, and in response to the Clinton County Legislature's efforts to expand the scope of the Plattsburgh International Airport, CV-TEC (the Technical Division of Clinton, Essex, Washington, Warren BOCES) and Clinton Community College are in the process of establishing the Plattsburgh Aeronautical Institute, an articulated, FAA-approved Part 147 Airframe and Powerplant school on the site of the former Plattsburgh Air Force Base. The federal funds will be spent to construct a steel pre-fabricated aeronautical hangar, to provide capital improvements for two instructional buildings located at the Plattsburgh International Airport, and to support initial staffing needs.

The Senate-House Conference Committee included \$1 million in the Commerce, Justice and Science spending bill for the Plattsburgh Aeronautical Institute. This effort was led in the House of Representatives by Congressman John McHugh. The bill was passed by the Conference Committee late Monday night and now heads to the floor for a full vote before the Senate and House before it is sent to the President to become law.