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GATEWAY TO IMPERIAL COUNTY

REP. BOB FILNER

Airport subsidy may be in danger

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A bill that could end federal subsidies for the Imperial Regional Airport passed the U.S. House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

U.S. Rep. Bob Filner, D-Chula Vista, said in a press release that he voted against the bill, as the federal essential air service program is necessary to link small communities to larger airline systems.

The program distributes federal subsidies to air carriers for providing air service to and from many small communities that would not receive air service without the subsidy.

“For many years, El Centro has received subsidized air service through the (program), because airlines have repeatedly declined to serve the Imperial Valley without them,” Filner said. “When the bill comes before the full House, I will work to restore the (program) to ensure continued commercial airline service for the Imperial Valley.”

He added that the airport is critical to sustaining local jobs.

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