



August 15, 2018



The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate
S-230, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate
S-221, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510



Dear Senators McConnell and Schumer:



We write to urge that the Senate move expeditiously to consider legislation for a long-term reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The current authority for FAA activities was extended in March of this year but will expire on September 30.



It is essential that the FAA is provided long-term authorization for its activities and programs to maintain and advance the safest, most efficient aerospace system in the world. The U.S. aviation sector supports nearly 11 million jobs and contributes \$1.6 trillion in economic activity. The aerospace industry needs dependable authority from the FAA and policymakers to continue to provide the highest level of service for aviation customers and meet the needs of the aviation industry and workforce.



The FAA and the traveling public have been subjected to short-term extensions of the FAA's authority since 2015, and these stopgap measures have negatively impacted the FAA's activities. A five-year reauthorization of FAA activities passed the U.S. House of Representatives on April 27. We appreciate the work of Chairman John Thune (R-SD) and Ranking Member Bill Nelson (D-FL) in advancing a bill out of the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee. Prompt consideration by the Senate will enable discussions with the House to resolve any outstanding differences between the two bills, prior to the expiration of authority on September 30.



Long-term legislation will allow employers, manufacturers, customers and communities the certainty to continue to build, invest, hire, innovate and grow in this dynamic industry. The 11 million people who work to make aviation fly count on this long-term legislation for their safety and security too. The FAA is foundational to the incredible safety record of aviation in the United States, making critical airport and air traffic investments in communities across this country and enabling innovation and the integration of new technology into the aviation system. The FAA's success and that of the aviation system will be significantly enhanced by progress and passage of a long-term FAA reauthorization bill.



There is bipartisan support for moving the FAA bill forward now to ensure safety, economic benefits, regulatory reform, and international competitiveness through a long-term reauthorization bill for the FAA. We are eager to assist you in securing consideration of this important legislation and we appreciate your leadership.



Sincerely,



- Aerospace Industries Association*
- Aeronautical Repair Station Association*
- Air Line Pilots Association*
- Air Medical Operators Association*
- Air Traffic Control Association*
- Aircraft Electronics Association*
- Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association*
- Airlines for America*



Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International
Association of Flight Attendants - CWA
Aviation Suppliers Association
Aviation Technician Education Council
Cargo Airline Association
Commercial Drone Alliance
Experimental Aircraft Association
General Aviation Manufacturers Association
Global Business Travel Association
Helicopter Association International
International Air Transport Association
International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers
International Brotherhood of Teamsters
Modification and Replacement Parts Association
National Air Carrier Association
National Air Traffic Controllers Association
National Association of Manufacturers
National Air Transportation Association
National Business Aviation Association
Professional Aviation Safety Specialists
Regional Air Cargo Carriers Association
Regional Airline Association
Small UAV Coalition
Travelers United
U.S. Chamber of Commerce