

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 18, 2017

**AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL
PRIVATIZATION:
AN ATTACK ON U.S. JOBS AND LABOR**
Oppose H.R. 2997, the 21st Century AIRR Act

Dear Democratic Colleague:

The House will soon consider H.R. 2997, the “21st Century AIRR Act”, which includes the controversial plan to privatize our Nation’s air traffic control (ATC) system that is supported by the **Trump administration and House Republican leadership**. Among other things, the dangerous ATC privatization plan:

- **Decimates the Federal Aviation Workforce.** ATC privatization will split the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in two and transfer more than 30,000 hardworking Federal employees to a private corporation run without adequate safeguards.
- **Puts American Jobs at Risk.** Over the last two decades, the FAA has spent more than \$50 billion on the procurement of goods and materials. These federal dollars may be expended only if they comply with Buy America requirements, which create and maintain U.S. jobs. Under H.R. 2997, the private corporation is not subject to any such domestic preference programs or requirements.
- **Harms Veterans.** Today, due to the FAA’s hiring preference for military veterans, more than 60 percent of employees in FAA bargaining units are veterans. Under H.R. 2997, the private corporation is not subject to veterans’ preference initiatives or requirements.
- **Undermines Employees’ Rights.** H.R. 2997 establishes draconian rules for new unions among ATC employees, which deviates from longstanding labor law, and undermines the ability of workers to organize. This legislation creates legal uncertainty by allowing unions to sue the employer and each other for any reason, and for the private corporation to sue any union for any reason, which also deviates from longstanding labor law.

Nearly 40 **progressive and labor groups** recently [wrote a letter to Congress](#) opposing the ATC privatization plan in H.R. 2997. In their letter, the groups conclude resoundingly that ATC privatization is “a misguided scheme [that] poses a significant threat to the labor rights and jobs of American workers” and that H.R. 2997 includes “wholesale attacks on labor rights.” Signatories to this letter include:

- Amalgamated Transit Workers (ATU);
- American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE);
- American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME);
- American Federation of Teachers;
- International Brotherhood of Boilermakers;
- International Longshore and Warehouse Union;
- International Longshoremen's Association;
- Metal Trades Department, AFL-CIO;
- NAACP;
- National Association of Government Employees (NAGE);
- National Federation of Federal Employees;
- National Hispanic Coalition of Federal Aviation Employees;
- Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization (PATCO);
- Professional Aviation Safety Specialists (PASS);
- Service Employees International Union (SEIU);
- SMART-Transportation Division; and
- United Steelworkers (USW).

The U.S. labor movement is already under attack by the Trump administration, and, now, by proponents of ATC privatization. We strongly urge you to join with us and oppose H.R. 2997 and protect American jobs.

If you have any questions, please contact us, or have your staff contact the Democratic staff of the Subcommittee on Aviation (ext. 5-9161).

Sincerely,



BOBBY SCOTT
Ranking Member
Committee on Education
and Workforce



PETER DeFAZIO
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure



ELIJAH CUMMINGS
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight
and Government Reform