



February 19, 2025

The Honorable Ted Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Maria Cantwell, Ranking Member  
Committee on Commerce, Science and  
Transportation  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jerry Moran  
The Honorable Tammy Duckworth  
Subcommittee on Aviation Safety, Operations and  
Innovation  
Committee on Commerce, Science and  
Transportation  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins, Chair  
The Honorable Patty Murray, Vice Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Cindy Hyde-Smith, Chair  
The Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and  
Urban Development  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Sam Graves, Chair  
The Honorable Rick Larsen, Ranking Member  
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Troy Nehls, Chair  
The Honorable Steve Cohen, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Aviation  
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole, Chair  
The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Steve Womack, Chair  
The Honorable Jim Clyburn, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and  
Urban Development  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairs Cruz, Graves, Nehls, Collins, Cole, Hyde-Smith, Womack, Vice Chair Murray, Ranking  
Members Cantwell, Larsen, Cohen, DeLauro, Gillibrand, Clyburn and Senators Moran and Duckworth:

As representatives from our nation's aviation sector, we are united in our grief over recent aviation accidents and our commitment to making sure that accidents like these never happen again.

Similarly, the undersigned organizations, representing our nation's aviation and aerospace sector, are united in expressing our continued support for ensuring America has a safe, resilient and modernized air traffic control (ATC) system. Congress provided significant leadership toward that end as part of the recently enacted FAA reauthorization bill, and we urge you to protect and build upon the baseline investments in the law to enhance safety in the air and on the ground.

The aviation industry – from commercial aviation to general aviation, manufacturing, labor, airports, advanced air mobility and other emerging technologies – accounts for more than 5% of the U.S. gross domestic product (GDP) generating over 10 million high-quality jobs. Our ATC system is a vital national infrastructure asset, essential to safe air travel and to our nation's economic growth and competitiveness. The FAA is responsible for the management of over 50,000 flights daily transporting more than 2.9 million passengers across our 29 million square miles of airspace.

To maintain a best-in-class ATC system that is globally competitive, it is our unified objective to work with the U.S. Congress and the Administration to find common ground to ensure the operational safety and efficiency of the National Airspace System (NAS). To achieve this, we must support air traffic controller workforce hiring and training, modernize and deploy state-of-the-art air traffic control facilities and equipment, implement procurement and program efficiencies and facility realignment, and address budget reforms for the Airport & Airway Trust Fund (AATF). We are aligned on not pursuing privatization of U.S. air traffic control services and believe it would be a distraction from these needed investments and reforms.

Our priorities include:

- 1) Robust emergency funding for critical air traffic control technology and infrastructure and controller staffing and training
- 2) Direction to FAA to achieve prudent divestment from legacy NAS elements and utilize new and innovative procurement methods to facilitate the deployment of state-of-the-art technology
- 3) Realignment and modernization of ATC facilities to improve operational efficiencies
- 4) Additional financial mechanisms to more effectively utilize AATF balances to enhance safety in the air and on the ground including through multi-year budgeting
- 5) Exempting the Federal Aviation Administration from government shutdowns to ensure a predictable funding stream to ensure continued safety and air traffic control personnel hiring and training

We have attached a white paper to discuss the challenges and opportunities in more detail. Addressing these areas will reduce costs, inefficiencies, and strengthen American competitiveness and will also ensure the FAA continues to uphold the highest standards of safety for all who use our nation's airspace. The FAA's primary mission has been, and should continue to be, ensuring the operational safety and efficiency of the National Airspace System (NAS). Everything the FAA does must be directly tied to, and in support of, that mission.

Our organizations are ready to work with you to ensure the FAA is more capable and prepared to deliver economic growth, foster American innovation, adapt to challenges, and continue to be the safest, largest, and most complex air traffic control system in the world. Please let us know what we can do to support your consideration and efforts.

Aeronautical Repair Station Association  
Aerospace Industries Association  
Air Line Pilots Association, International  
Air Traffic Control Association  
Aircraft Electronics Association

Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association  
Airlines for America  
Allied Pilots Association  
American Association of Airport Executives  
Association of Flight Attendants-CWA

Association for Uncrewed Vehicle Systems  
International  
Aviation Technical Education Council  
Experimental Aircraft Association Inc.  
General Aviation Manufacturers Association  
Global Business Travel Association  
International Air Transport Association  
International Council of Air Shows  
National Agricultural Aviation Association  
National Air Carrier Association  
National Air Traffic Controllers Association  
National Air Transportation Association  
National Association of State Aviation Officials  
National Business Aviation Association  
NetJets Association of Shared Aircraft Pilots  
Professional Aviation Safety Specialists, AFL-  
CIO  
Recreational Aviation Foundation  
Regional Airline Association  
Southwest Airlines Pilots Association  
Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO  
Transport Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO  
Travelers United  
U.S. Travel Association  
Vertical Aviation International  
Vertical Flight Society