



March 5, 2008

To Members of the United States Senate:

As representatives of the aviation community, we are writing to stress the importance of passing a comprehensive, long-term reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Further, we wish to express our collective hope that passing a bill in a timely fashion will be a priority for the U.S. Senate in this second session of the 110th Congress.

As you know, the American economy is increasingly dependent upon the rapid transportation of products and people that aviation allows. With the current concerns about the economy taking such a high-profile position on Capitol Hill, we feel it is important to highlight to policy makers the vital role that aviation plays in our economy:

- Representing 5.4 percent of Gross Domestic Product;
- Contributing over \$600 billion to the annual economy; and
- Providing 9 million jobs.

While our individual goals are diverse and in many cases divergent, we are unified in recognizing the importance of advancing multi-year FAA reauthorization legislation and the development of the Next Generation Air Transportation System. The strength of our aviation system and the ability to meet future demands is dependent upon the federal government's success in meeting its obligations to provide adequate infrastructure. A critical step in meeting those obligations is for the Senate to advance a comprehensive, long-term bill that will help provide the resources necessary to help our country meet the current and growing demands being placed on the aviation system.

On this issue, we hope that the Senate will recognize the importance of advancing multi-year FAA reauthorization legislation and make it a priority in 2008, especially considering how important the aviation industry is to our economy. We look forward to working with the Senate to complete the FAA reauthorization process and ensure that our nation's aviation system is able to grow in a manner that is safe, secure and efficient for all users.

Sincerely,

*Aerospace Industries Association
 Aeronautical Repair Station Association
 Aerospace States Association
 Air Carrier Association of America
 Air Line Pilots Association
 Airports Consultants Council
 Airports Council International-North America
 American Association of Airport Executives
 American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials
 American Helicopter Society
 American Public Works Association
 Association of Flight Attendants-CWA, AFL-CIO
 Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations
 Association of Equipment Manufacturers
 Cargo Airline Association
 Florida Airports Council*

*General Aviation Manufacturers Association
 International Air Transport Association
 International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers – AFL-CIO
 National Air Carrier Association
 National Aircraft Resale Association
 National Air Traffic Controllers Association
 National Air Transportation Association
 National Association of Counties
 National Association of Regional Councils
 National Association of State Aviation Officials
 National Business Aviation Association
 National Conference of State Legislatures
 National League of Cities
 National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association
 Portland Cement Association
 Professional Aviation Maintenance Association
 Professional Airways Systems Specialists
 Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO
 U.S. Chamber of Commerce*