

Brothers and Sisters,

As we reported to you on Wednesday, Feb. 3, NATCA decided after very careful consideration and many provisions in the bill that protect the workforce to support the FAA Reauthorization bill introduced by House Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) Committee Chairman Bill Shuster (R-PA-9), titled the Aviation Innovation, Reform, and Reauthorization Act of 2016 (H.R. 4441, the AIRR Act). [The bill](#) proposes a change to the funding of the National Airspace System (NAS) and would separate ATC operations of the NAS from the safety and regulatory functions at the FAA, while protecting our members' rights, pay, benefits, and retirement. It would provide a solution to the current problem of an unstable, unpredictable funding stream to operate and improve the 24/7 safety function we provide.

On Wednesday, Feb. 10, the House T&I Committee [held a hearing](#) to review air traffic control reform proposals. Witnesses included NATCA President Paul Rinaldi, Airlines for America President and CEO Nicholas Calio, National Business Aviation Association President and CEO Ed Bolen, and Reason Foundation Director of Transportation Policy Robert Poole. Paul's [testimony](#) was received with tremendous respect on Capitol Hill. While members of Congress may disagree on some of the policy considerations in the proposal, we have received positive feedback from numerous members of Congress and Congressional staff expressing that Paul effectively articulated NATCA's concerns with the status quo: how the stop-and-go funding stream has had a negative effect on the system, and how workforce protections are maintained in the proposed legislation. We believe that an important highlight of the hearing was when Ranking Member DeFazio (D-OR-4) pointed out that, in all his years in Congress, he had never seen a piece of legislation that was so comprehensive in terms of worker protections.

Yesterday, Feb. 11, the House T&I Committee [held a markup](#) of H.R. 4441, passing the legislation by a vote of 32-26, moving it to the floor of the House of Representatives. There were more than 90 amendments filed for consideration during the nine-hour markup. Ranking Member DeFazio offered a targeted amendment to provide a stable funding stream for the FAA. As promised in our original email, we thoroughly reviewed Mr. DeFazio's amendment and found his amendment would satisfy our requirements. As a result, we supported it. However, his amendment failed by a vote of 25-34.

NATCA closely monitored the entire markup, carefully reviewing amendments as they were being considered, and working with members of Congress and staff on behalf of our membership. The next step for the bill is to receive a vote in the House of Representatives, and the timing is uncertain. This process is very fluid, and we will continue to keep you updated.

We understand that this is a complex, important issue, and you may have questions. We want to answer them, provide you with information about this legislation, and the reasons for NATCA's support. Therefore, we will hold our next members-only teleconferences on Tuesday, Feb. 16, at noon EST and on Wednesday, Feb. 17, at 5:30 p.m. EST. We hope you can participate. Dial 877-410-5657 and, when prompted, enter passcode 70275. We strongly suggest calling in 15 minutes prior to the start time to ensure your request to join the teleconference is processed by an operator before the call begins. Please have your membership number ready. If you don't know your membership number, you can find it [here](#).

We set up an email address to receive any questions you may have regarding this topic: faabill@natca.net. We also have a questions-and-answers document that you can find attached as a PDF to this email. [Please click here](#) to view this same document in a version that is good for both mobile devices and laptop. It is also now found at the top of our members-only "FAA Reauthorization" page. We will continue to update the document as we receive your questions. For more information about the legislation, we encourage you to visit the page. To access the page, go to natca.org and click on the "Member Login" button in the menu. Once you log in and reach the members home page, click on the "FAA Reauthorization" button.

If you have not yet logged on to the members side of the website, you need to use the same username and password as those for your NATCA Portal account. [Click here](#) to register and create credentials through the NATCA Portal.

NATCA has developed a comprehensive strategy to address FAA reform, the urgent need for a stable funding stream, (H.R. 4441) the FAA Reauthorization bill, the many extensions we may see and long-term attempts of various reform models. Please try and participate in one of the member telcons or membership meetings we are holding.

Thank you.

In Solidarity,

The NATCA National Executive Board