

Nov. 9, 2016

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Donald Trump has been elected the 45th President of the United States and Mike Pence has been elected the 48th Vice President of the United States and we congratulate them on their victory. While it is not the outcome we were expecting, it has always been NATCA's philosophy to forge our own path. NATCA's members have always been responsible for shaping our destiny and we will continue to do so regardless of the political environment. NATCA is not tied to one political party and we are not reliant on any particular elected leader for our success. We always work to reach out to officials and candidates on both sides of the aisle in order to build a NATCA majority and we look forward to building a relationship with the Trump-Pence Administration.

Over the past eight years, NATCA and the Obama Administration have built a strong, collaborative relationship within the Federal Aviation Administration and the Department of Transportation. NATCA and the Air Traffic Organization have defined collaboration as "both parties taking responsibility to engage in meaningful dialogue with their counterpart(s). This includes making a genuine effort to ensure that both parties' interests have been identified and as many as possible have been addressed before an outcome is determined."

Collaboration, though, is not an end product. Both parties have had to work hard to establish collaboration as a way of doing business, and not just at the top of our respective organizations. We've worked to establish it at all levels of leadership, from the national level to the regional level, to the facility level, and even to the area level. Collaboration only succeeds when the parties are committed to ensuring that it is part of everything we do. The evidence is overwhelming that when we work together, positive outcomes result. Leaders on both sides of the political aisle have acknowledged NATCA and the FAA for our collaborative successes. We hope that President-elect Trump will recognize that success and continue our partnership.

President-elect Trump has vowed to transform America's infrastructure to create accelerated economic growth and has expressed support for government spending and investments in transportation infrastructure. He has also pledged to work with Congress to modernize our airports and air traffic control systems, and reform the FAA. These promises all have the potential to be very positive for our members, but they also could contain risks. The important thing to remember is that NATCA will be there, fighting for the employees who operate the National Airspace System to make sure our voices are heard.

We have been subject to government shutdowns, partial FAA shutdowns, sequestration-related furloughs, and other disruptions to the FAA's authorization and appropriations that have affected the workforce and the mission of the agency. Unfortunately, a stable, predictable funding stream remains out of our

grasp.

We will work with the Trump-Pence transition team and Administration to address the issue of stable, predictable funding. We have and will continue to convey that in order to receive NATCA's support, any reform must achieve the following:

Any new system must ensure that our members are fully protected in their employment relationship. It is crucial to us to maintain our members' pay and benefits, including retirement and health care, along with our negotiated agreements for their work rules, and indemnification for our members for acts within the scope of their employment.

Safety and efficiency must remain the top priorities. This means that we cannot allow maintenance to lag, and cannot reduce staffing to save money. The NAS must be fully staffed in order to ensure both safety and efficiency.

A stable, predictable funding stream must adequately support air traffic control services, staffing, hiring and training, long-term modernization projects, preventative maintenance, and ongoing modernization to the physical infrastructure. The stop and go funding crises slow the hiring and training processes, which create staffing shortages. Funding uncertainty also prevents NextGen modernization projects from timely implementation.

A dynamic aviation system that continues to provide services to all segments of the aviation community, from commercial passenger carriers and cargo haulers to business jets and general aviation, from the major airports to those in small communities and rural America. We cannot emphasize enough how important it is that a new system continues providing services to the diverse users of the NAS.

We look forward to working with the new Administration to ensure the robust and vibrant future of the system we so proudly serve.

In Solidarity,

The NATCA National Executive Board

