

Brothers and Sisters,

Today, President Trump released his new budget proposal. The Administration proposes shifting the air traffic control function of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to an independent, non-governmental organization.

Currently there are not any specifics on the President's proposal. When those are available we will evaluate it carefully. To be clear, NATCA will aggressively oppose any profit-driven model operating the NAS. To maintain the integrity of the safety of the NAS, any change must meet our core principles:

- (1) Protecting the men and women who ensure the safety and efficiency of the NAS in their employment relationship, including their rights and benefits;
- (2) Ensuring that safety and efficiency remain the top priorities;
- (3) Providing a stable, predictable funding stream that adequately supports air traffic control services, staffing, hiring and training, long-term modernization, preventative maintenance, and ongoing modernization of the physical infrastructure; and
- (4) Ensuring continued service to all segments of our nation's diverse aviation community.

The Administration and Congress will engage in discussions and develop proposals for reform for a variety of reasons. We continue to believe that NATCA's involvement on this issue is vitally important. Last year, NATCA supported the Aviation Innovation, Reform & Reauthorization (AIRR) Act of 2016 because it contained legislative language that ensured these core principles were met.

NATCA has a positive, collaborative working relationship with the FAA, as well as many in Congress and in the aviation industry. In a speech earlier this month, Administrator Huerta emphasized the results of that relationship in regards to modernization. He said, "discussing alternative approaches when our aviation community is strong and our system is being safely and effectively modernized through our NextGen initiatives represents the right time to be asking critical questions."

We agree with that statement. There is much to be proud of. However, a stable, predictable funding stream for the NAS is needed to ensure modernization efforts continue, hiring/training are a priority, and service continues in all communities and for all users of the system.

It is important that all stakeholders within the NAS collaborate to ensure that the United States remains the world leader in aviation as the Administration and Congress consider air traffic control reform and work to provide long-term FAA reauthorization.

NATCA seeks to continue to be part of the solution while protecting the men and women who safeguard the NAS, both today and in the future.

In Solidarity,

Paul Rinaldi
President

Trish Gilbert
Executive Vice President

