



Budget Deal Announced

Congressional leaders and the Trump administration announced an agreement on a bipartisan budget deal to raise spending caps for federal programs and extend the Treasury Department's borrowing authority in order to avoid debt default. Under the terms of the deal that has been agreed upon, spending caps would be raised on discretionary spending by \$321 billion over two years and the debt ceiling would be raised until July 30, 2021.

Raising the spending caps would pave the way for Congress to fund federal agencies, such as the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), before the Sept. 30, 2019 deadline in order to avoid a shutdown. The deal also prevents the effects of sequestration, which mandates across-the-board spending cuts to discretionary spending, including both defense and non-defense programs.

The House passed the budget deal last Thursday, July 25, before recessing for August. The Senate is in session for one more week and is expected to vote on final passage on Tuesday, July 30.

Although the passage through both chambers is encouraging, and the President has signaled his support for the deal, it is important that we remain vigilant until the process is complete and the President has officially signed the legislation into law.

In the meantime, NATCA will continue to meet with Democrats and Republicans in the House and Senate to aggressively advocate for a stable, predictable funding stream for the FAA and explain why we must avoid another government shutdown, which would jeopardize the flying public by undermining the safety and efficiency of the National Airspace System.

Update on Current Legislation

H.R. 1108 Aviation Funding Stability Act of 2019

NATCA supports H.R. 1108. If enacted, this legislation would ensure that the aviation system continues to fully operate, without interruption, in the event of a government shutdown.

H.R. 1108 was introduced by Reps. Peter DeFazio, D-Ore., Chairman of the House Transportation & Infrastructure (T&I) Committee, and Rick Larsen, D-Wash., Chairman of

the Aviation Subcommittee. The lead Republican on the legislation is Rep. Bob Gibbs, R-Ohio, a senior member of the House T&I Committee. This legislation was introduced following the 35-day government shutdown that wreaked havoc on the National Airspace System and its workforce.

The T&I Committee passed H.R. 1108 on Wednesday, March 27, by unanimous consent. Since introduction of the bill, the National Legislative Committee (NLC), NATCA activists, and Government Affairs staff have been aggressively working to encourage members of Congress to sign on as co-sponsors to this important legislation.

The legislation has faced hurdles and political challenges, especially among the leadership of the House Appropriations Committee and the House Ways & Means Committee. Despite that, the legislation has garnered 242 bipartisan co-sponsors so far.

[Click here to view the detailed list](#) of Congress members in the House who have already supported H.R. 1108, organized by state. For up-to-the minute listings of co-sponsors, [please visit congress.gov](#).

S. 762 Aviation Funding Stability Act of 2019

NATCA focused its resources on garnering support for the House version of the legislation. Support for that proposal has grown steadily in recent months. NATCA in Washington served as the launching pad for NATCA's advocacy on the Senate companion legislation, S. 762, which is identical to H.R. 1108. S. 762 was introduced by Senator Jerry Moran, R-Kan., and has garnered nine bipartisan co-sponsors so far.

[Click here to view the detailed list](#) of Congress members in the Senate who have already supported S. 762. For up-to-the minute listings of co-sponsors, [please visit congress.gov](#).

S. 1148 Air Traffic Controller (ATC) Hiring Reform Act of 2019

On April 11, Senators John Hoeven, R-N.D., and Jeanne Shaheen, D-N.H., introduced the Air Traffic Controller Hiring Reform Act of 2019, legislation to help improve the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) hiring process for air traffic controllers. NATCA strongly supports the ATC Hiring Reform Act of 2019. The National Airspace System (NAS) has reached a 30-year low in the number of fully certified controllers, and enactment of this legislation would address some of the barriers that slow the FAA's hiring process for new controller trainees.

Last Wednesday, July 24, the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation passed S. 1148 by unanimous consent. NATCA worked closely with the Senate Commerce Committee members and staff on the passage of this bipartisan bill. We expect the full Senate to attempt to pass the legislation by unanimous consent at some point.

Hatch Act Tip of the Month

Do Not Engage in Political Activity on Federal Property

Federal employees are permitted to express their opinions privately and publicly on political subjects, including writing a letter to the editor or posting a comment/blog online endorsing a candidate.

The Hatch Act expressly prohibits federal employees from engaging in political activity while on duty or on federal property and federal employees may not use their official authority to interfere with the result of an election. Federal employees may not solicit, accept, or receive political contributions at any time.

As long as the employee's endorsement is in his/her personal capacity and does not identify his/her federal position or office, request for political contributions, or provide information about where voters may contribute, there is no prohibition on writing a letter to the editor or posting an endorsement online.

If you have a question about whether something is allowed, [contact your National Legislative Committee member](#).

NATCA Activism in Local Districts

LOUISIANA: Shreveport ATCT Hosts First Congressional Tour



Pictured left to right: SHV Treasurer Mary Hall, SHV FacRep Kyle Hall, Congressman Mike Johnson, Congressman Johnson's sons Will and Jack, and SHV member Chris Genners

Louisiana Congressman Mike Johnson visited Shreveport ATCT (SHV) with his sons and a few members of his staff. "As one of the last facilities that is not co-located, we discussed the age and condition of the tower as well as the airport's future plans for a new one," said SHV Treasurer Mary Hall. "The Congressman was very intrigued during the tour and is making plans to tour our RAPCON, located on Barksdale Air Force Base in Bossier City, La."

FLORIDA: Members Welcome Congressman Spano



Pictured left to right: TPA FacRep Chris Walsh, Florida Congressman Ross Spano, and F11 FacRep Ken Scheele

Florida Congressman Ross Spano and two of his staffers recently visited Tampa ATCT and TRACON (TPA). TPA Operations Manager Randall Baughcum, TPA FacRep Chris Walsh, TPA member Randy Drose, and Central Florida TRACON (F11) FacRep Ken Scheele were on hand to provide the tour and answer questions. "We discussed the basics of ATC and how TPA impacts the Congressman's District," said Scheele.

Added Walsh: "We also discussed the challenges TPA faces being in such an old building and the impact that the outdated facility has on Lakeland airport and on events such as Sun 'n Fun."

The group toured the facility, the tower cab, and the radar room. The Congressman and his aids were able to see how different airports intertwined and all the air traffic that was currently airborne and being tracked in the United States.

"The Congressman asked several questions, including how we deal with weather, safety, and redundancy," said Walsh. "We took the opportunity to explain how a lack of funding was a problem and thanked him for his support of H.R. 1108."

New Mexico: Controllers Discuss the National Airspace System and Operations at Albuquerque Center



Pictured left to right: ABQ Legislative Rep Kyle Gibson, Congressional District Director Naomi Valdez, New Mexico Congresswoman Xochitl Torres Small, ZAB Legislative Rep Derek Bray, and ZAB FacRep Danny Watson

NATCA members at Albuquerque Center (ZAB) hosted Congresswoman Xochitl Torres Small and her district director for a facility tour. They were joined by Albuquerque ATCT

(ABQ) Legislative Rep Kyle Gibson, ZAB Legislative Rep Derek Bray, and ZAB FacRep Dan Watson.

"We went over general details of the NAS and the operation at ZAB," Watson said. "ZAB provides services to multiple uncontrolled airports in New Mexico such as Las Cruces, Ruidoso, Carlsbad, and Truth or Consequences, along with military and commercial space operations. We talked about operations in southern New Mexico which include Spaceport America, Holloman AFB operations, Cannon AFB operations, Roswell ATCT operations, and a general description of the airspace."

After these discussions, the group toured ZAB's training lab and talked about the training process at ZAB. "We explained the functions of the weather unit, traffic management, and took a brief tour of several areas," Watson said.

"Thanks for supporting air traffic controllers in New Mexico and the rest of the National Airspace System," Bray told the congresswoman.

NEW ENGLAND: Members Attend Congressman Courtney's Weekend Retreat



Pictured left to right: PVD members Gordon Green, Jamie Green, Connecticut Congressman Joe Courtney, and Retired member Andy Brennan

Members from Connecticut and Rhode Island attended a weekend retreat hosted by Connecticut Congressman Joe Courtney. Providence ATCT (PVD) members Gordon and Jamie Green, and retired Bradley International ATCT (BDL) member Andy Brennan were able to have ample pertinent conversations with Rhode Island Congressmen David Cicilline and Jim Langevin, Kentucky Congressman John Yarmuth, and Congressman Courtney.



Pictured left to right; PVD member Jamie Green, Rhode Island Congressman Jim Langevin, Retired member Andy Brennan, wife Jeanette Brennan, and PVD member Gordon Green



Pictured left to right: Retired member Andy Brennan, PVD member Gordon Green, Kentucky Congressman John Yarmuth, and PVD member Jamie Green

"We were able to have plenty of interactions to thank Congressmen Cicilline, Courtney, and Langevine for their support of our facility, NATCA and H.R. 1108," said PVD Legislative Rep Jamie Green. "We met Congressman Yarmuth for the first time that weekend and talked to him about our profession and H.R. 1108. He did not commit to cosponsor H.R. 1108, but he did express genuine support for NATCA."

KANSAS: Members of Congress Visit Kansas City Center

Kansas Congresswoman Sharice Davids hosted Aviation Subcommittee Chairman and Washington Congressman Rick Larsen on a visit to Kansas City Center (ZKC).



Pictured left to right: Central Regional Vice President Aaron Merrick, ZKC FacRep Todd Mariani, Kansas Congresswoman Sharice Davids, Washington Congressman and House Aviation Subcommittee Chairman Rick Larsen, ZKC Area Rep and Kansas State Legislative Coordinator Jami Davis, and ZKC Vice President Nathan Burch

"We were able to sit down with both members of Congress and discuss the state of our facility, including the staffing numbers at our facility," said Central Regional Vice President and ZKC member Aaron Merrick. "She said she wants more younger people to be made aware of the job opportunities that exist in our field, and to contact her office before the next job bid is announced."



ZKC members explaining CPDLC to Reps. Davids and Larsen.

"We also toured the weather office and the Traffic Management Unit before an in-depth tour of the Controller Pilot Data Link Communications (CPDLC) lab. Facility Technical Rep Blake Guffey and Staff Support Specialist Michael Ray explained CPDLC, the benefits of it, and the challenges we have had with implementation, including delays related to the government shutdown."

MISSOURI: Tarkio Air Show and Town Hall



At the annual fly-in and air show hosted by the Wing Nuts Flying Circus Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Chapter in Tarkio, Mo., NATCA members participated in a town hall hosted by Rep. Sam Graves, R-Mo., the House Transportation & Infrastructure (T&I) Committee Ranking Member. Reps. Peter DeFazio, D-Ore., Chairman of the T&I Committee, Rick Larsen, D-Wash., Chairman of the Aviation Subcommittee, Sharice Davids, D-Kan., Adam Kinzinger, R-Ill., and Federal Aviation Administration Acting Administrator Dan Elwell were in attendance. They came together with a collective message to engage the youth in aviation now, for a career path in aviation for the future.

NATCA in Washington 2019



In each Legislative Update, we will be posting interviews from your fellow NATCAvists who had the opportunity to attend NATCA in Washington (NiW) and share their thoughts. [Click on this link](#) or click the video below to hear what they had to say. Additionally, you can click on the links in the boxes below to view materials, videos, and transcripts from NiW 2019.

[Click here](#) to view the transcript from Paul and Trish's opening speech.

[Click here](#) to view the video of Paul and Trish's opening speech.

[Click here](#) to view the 2019 edition of NiW Today, providing a comprehensive guide to the issues, meeting tips, and references.

[Click here](#) to review your post-NiW packet including a checklist, motivational tips, and sample thank-you letters.

As a Veteran NiW Attendee, How Is This Year's Event Different?



Save the Date: NiW 2020, March 23-25

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