



## Appropriations and Minibuses

The federal government, including the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), is currently funded through Sept. 30, 2019. Congress has been working on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 appropriations bills, with the House taking the lead to quickly advance appropriations bills before the end of June. The United States House of Representatives passed all but two appropriations bills before its July 4 recess.

During the month of June, the House considered two "minibus" packages, which are bundles of appropriations bills. House leadership has attempted to combine bills together in a targeted manner, with certain controversial bills combined with more popular bills to ensure a smoother process on the House floor.

The first minibus included four appropriations bills and passed the House on Wednesday, June 19. On Tuesday, June 25, the House passed a second minibus, packaging five appropriations bills, including the Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development (THUD) appropriations bill, which covers the FAA. On Wednesday, June 26, the House passed the Financial Services appropriations bill, which includes a 3.1% pay raise for federal employees.

Senate Appropriations leadership has been waiting to receive top-line budget numbers before advancing their appropriations bills, so a THUD bill has not been marked up in that chamber yet. However, because a budget agreement on funding levels has not been reached yet, Senate Appropriations Chairman Richard Shelby is expected to move forward on FY 2020 appropriations bills after the July 4 recess.

## 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 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 230 bipartisan co-sponsors so far.

### **S. 762 Aviation Funding Stability Act of 2019**

Until now, NATCA has focused its resources on garnering support for the House version of the legislation. Support for the proposal has grown 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 eight bipartisan co-sponsors so far.

### **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. So far, Senator Kyrsten Sinema, D-Ariz., and Senator Shelley Moore Capito, R-W.Va., have co-sponsored S. 1148.

## **The NATCA Podcast: Jose Ceballos**



NATCA Director of Government Affairs Jose Ceballos talks with Deputy Director of Public Affairs Doug Church in an episode of The NATCA Podcast devoted to the federal budget and FAA funding issues. Ceballos discusses this week's House vote to pass a Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) FY2020 appropriations bill, gives a status update on the increasing Congressional support for both H.R. 1108 and S. 762, and analyzes the looming threats posed by the end of fiscal year appropriations on Sept. 30, sequestration, and the debt ceiling issue.

To listen to this episode, [click here](#).

To subscribe to The NATCA Podcast, click on the link for [iTunes](#) or [Google Play](#).

## **Boots On The Ground Member Represents NATCA at Blue Commonwealth Gala**



**Left to right: Virginia AFL-CIO Campaign Manager Julie Hunter with husband Richard, NATCA Boots On The Ground member Craig Smith with wife Erica, Virginia AFL-CIO Communications Director Destiny Levere, Presidential Candidate and Minnesota Senator Amy Klobuchar, Virginia AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Lorne Seay, Virginia AFL-CIO President Doris Crouse-Mayes with husband Mike**

NATCA Boots On The Ground member Craig Smith and his wife Erica attended the Virginia 2019 Blue Commonwealth Gala in Richmond, Va. With approximately 1,500 people in attendance, the event helped to draw attention to the 2019 state and local races in Virginia. "The importance of local races are sometimes lost in the media frenzy of covering the President and Congress," said Smith. "However, the vast majority of us spend over 95% of our year in our home state. Local elections are, and should be, very important to each of us."

In attendance and speaking at the event were both Virginia Senators, Mark Warner and Tim Kaine, former Governor of Virginia Terry McAuliffe, along with several members of the Virginia Congressional delegation. The keynote speakers were Presidential candidates Senator Amy Klobuchar and Mayor Pete Buttigieg.

"I spoke to both candidates, both Senators, and all of the members of Congress in attendance," Smith said. "Every one of them knew what NATCA stood for, and know the kind of work we do. That speaks volumes about our Union."

## Hatch Act Tip of the Month

### **Do Not Wear or Display Partisan Campaign Materials at Work**

It is a Hatch Act violation to wear or display partisan campaign materials in the federal workplace, including, but not limited to T-shirts, hats, buttons, and pins. Now that Joe Biden is a candidate in the 2020 presidential election, NATCA members should not wear or display any Obama-Biden items while on duty or in the workplace. Similarly, NATCA members should not wear or display any items for any other candidates for office or slogans associated with those candidates while on duty or in the workplace. If you have a question about whether something is allowed, [contact your National Legislative Committee member](#).

# NATCA Activism in Local Districts

## OKLAHOMA: Meet and Greet with Members of Congress



Patrick Watford (right), Tulsa Riverside ATCT (RVS), Shana Atkins (second from left), and Berkley Atkins (left), Oklahoma State Legislative Coordinator and Tulsa ATCT (TUL) attended a lunch for Oklahoma Congressman Tom Cole (second from right). "As a Vice Ranking Member on the House Appropriations Committee, he is skeptical of H.R. 1108, but we'll keep working on him," said Atkins.





TUL members Berkley Atkins (left) and Andrew Karkiewicz (right) had the pleasure of welcoming their newest congressman from the first district of Oklahoma. As a pilot, Congressman Kevin Hern (center) was excited to see the other side of the radio and what aviation safety professionals deal with day in and day out. "He was eager to hear TUL-specific issues as in the national airspace as a whole," said Atkins. "We are looking forward to working with him in the future."



Additionally, Halie Richards (left), Oklahoma City/Will Rogers ATCT (OKC), Berkley Atkins (TUL), and Lisa Townsend (right) (OKC) had the opportunity to attend an event for Congresswoman Horn (center) in Oklahoma City. "Despite the tornado warnings it was a great turn out," said Atkins. "My fellow NATCAvists did an amazing job and we're looking forward to future opportunities to developing our relationship with the Congresswoman."

## **MARYLAND: Members Emphasize the Importance of Stable, Predictable Funding to Congressman Brown**



Congressman Anthony Brown hosted a Transportation and Infrastructure breakfast for those with a vested interest in the U.S. transportation systems. Washington National ATCT (DCA) FacRep Aubrey Farrar and Maryland State Legislative Coordinator and Washington Dulles ATCT (IAD) member Jamaal Teel attended the event. "We thanked Congressman Brown for supporting H.R. 1108," said Teel. "But we also let him know that we cannot plan anything past Sept. 30, with another government shutdown looming ahead."

### **MISSISSIPPI: Controllers Discuss the Value of H.R. 1108 and S.762**



**Left to right: Mike Nall (GPT Air Traffic Manager), Mississippi Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith, Dennis Hilton (GPT FacRep and Legislative), Mark Baugh (GPT Vice President)**

Gulfport ATCT (GPT) proudly hosted Mississippi Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith and Michele Gargiulo, District Director for Mississippi Congressman Steven Palazzo. "We briefed them on the roles and responsibilities of the GPT aviation safety professionals and gave a tour of our facility," said GPT FacRep and Legislative Rep Dennis Hilton, Jr. "This provided them an opportunity to meet more Mississippi constituents. We also educated them on the importance of H.R. 1108 and S. 762, the Aviation Funding Stability Acts."

## **TEXAS: Member Meets Congresswoman Fletcher at Local Grocery Store**





Texas State Legislative Coordinator and Houston Center (ZHU) member Eric Avila attended an event at a local grocery store for Texas Congresswoman Lizzie Fletcher. "I attended the event with my son to support her and again thank her for her support of NATCA," said Avila.

## **RHODE ISLAND: Members Attend Event in Honor of Congressman Langevin**



Alternate New England Region National Legislative Committee Member and Providence ATCT (PVD) member Juan Ledesma (second from left), PVD Legislative Rep Jamie Green (right), and PVD member Dan Turcotte (left) met with Rhode Island Congressman Jim Langevin (center) at Finn's Harborside. "We had the opportunity to chat with the majority of his district staff," said Ledesma. "It was a great event."

### **OHIO: Members Discuss the Detriments of Stop-and-Go Funding and the Importance of Official Time**



**Left to right: Mike Weekley (CMH member), North Carolina Congressman Patrick McHenry, Ben Hudak (CMH Legislative Rep), Ron Shonk (Ohio State Legislative Coordinator and ZOB Legislative Rep), Ohio Congressman Troy Balderson**

Ohio Congressman Troy Balderson welcomed Columbus ATCT (CMH) members Mike Weekley and Ben Hudak, and Cleveland Center (ZOB) Legislative Rep Ron Shonk with open arms, literally. "Congressman Balderson saw us, called us over, embraced us, and introduced us to everyone in the room," said Weekley. "We also had the opportunity to meet North Carolina Congressman Patrick McHenry, and explained to him how the current stop-and-go funding is hurting our aviation system. He agreed to support us on that issue."





**Left to right: Brian White (ZOB Vice President), Stephen Hostalley (Ohio Congressman Anthony Gonzalez's Legislator Director), Nathan Jones (CLE FacRep), Nick Yochman (YNG FacRep)**

Cleveland Hopkins ATCT (CLE) members, along with Cleveland Center Vice President Brian White and Youngstown ATCT (YNG) FacRep Nick Yochman, hosted a tour of CLE for Ohio Congressman Anthony Gonzalez's Legislative Director Stephen Hostalley. "We took him to the tower simulator, the tower, and the TRACON," said CLE FacRep Nathan Jones. "We talked about our low staffing numbers and asked him to thank Congressman Gonzalez for co-sponsoring H.R. 1108."

When asked by Hostalley what an important issue is for the members, Jones, White, and Yochman told him about official time. "We explained to him the importance of collaboration and input from all sides, especially in the final stages of projects, and how official time comes into play," said Jones. "Hostalley said he understood the value, and would take this message back to Congressman Gonzalez as an issue to support."

## **GEORGIA: Members Host Eight State Offices at Facility**





**Pictured left to right: Chris Speed, Field Representative for Congresswoman Lucy McBath; William Smith, Legislative Assistant for Congressman Doug Collins; Miller Robinson, Legislative Correspondent for Congressman Drew Ferguson; Claire Bartlett, Field Representative for Congressman Barry Loudermilk; Spencer Hogg, Special Assistant for Congressman Tom Graves; Zack Stokes, Regional Representative for Congressman Rick Allen; Patrick Oh, Field Representative for Congressman Rob Woodall; Ana Moylan, Communications Assistant for Congressman Hank Johnson; Laveeta Branche, District Scheduler for Congressman Hank Johnson; ATL Tower member Adrienne Turley; ATL Tower member and Georgia State Coordinator Jenny Chhetri; ATL Tower member Blake Locke**

Atlanta ATCT (ATL) successfully hosted eight congressional offices and their staff members at their facility for a "Staff Day." The congressional office staff members were given a tour of the tower and catwalk and were able to see the controllers in action. They then visited the simulator, which is always a crowd favorite, because they get to become an air traffic controller and have a better understanding of the training process as well as the many unspoken decisions being made while working. "We discussed many important topics," said Georgia State Legislative Coordinator Jenny Chhetri, "including how to become an air traffic controller and the training process afterwards; the numbers in our workforce, including the number eligible to retire and the percentage of controllers that have been hired since 2008; the benefits being cut and removed from our profession; our working hours and shift times; privatization; and the impact of the government shutdown at the FAA Academy."

## **KENTUCKY: Member Gives Tour of Lexington Tower**



**Left to right: Kristine Tucker (LEX Air Traffic Manager), Michael Case (Kentucky Congressman Andy Barr's Legislative Assistant, Elida Bermudez (LEX Legislative Rep)**

Lexington ATCT (LEX) Legislative Rep Elida Bermudez welcomed Kentucky Congressman Andy Barr's Legislative Assistant, Michael Case, to LEX for a tour of the



facility. "As a beneficiary of the H.R. 5292 Air Traffic Controller Hiring Improvement Act of 2016, I am quickly learning how legislative activism can impact aviation safety professionals across the NAS in a positive way," said Bermudez.

## TENNESSEE: Member Gives Congressman a Tour of the Tower



Nashville Metropolitan ATCT (BNA) member and Tennessee State Legislative Coordinator Zac Hedrick (left) recently hosted Tennessee Congressman John Rose (right) on a facility tour of the tower. "We discussed the rapid growth the airport is having and the challenges facing our facility," said Hedrick. "I also thanked him for becoming a co-sponsor of H.R. 1108."

## NATCA in Washington 2019



If you missed out on attending NATCA in Washington last month, have no fear, we have your recap here!

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

[Click here](#) to view the 2019 edition of NiW

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

[Click here](#) to review your post-NiW packet

Today, providing a comprehensive guide to the issues, meeting tips, and references.

including a checklist, motivational tips, and sample thank-you letters.

Additionally, we interviewed some of your fellow NATCAvists for their thoughts on NATCA in Washington. [Click on this link](#) or click the video below to see what they had to say about their experiences at NATCA in Washington 2019.

## What are your feelings after your meetings on Capitol Hill?



**Save the Date: NiW 2020, March 23-25**

BECOME AN ACTIVIST

Stay Connected



1325 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, D.C., 20005 202.628.5451

NATCA, 1325 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC 20005

[SafeUnsubscribe™ {recipient's email}](#)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Customer Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by [natcanationaloffice@natcadc.org](mailto:natcanationaloffice@natcadc.org)



