

September 29, 2023

Members of the United States Congress:

We are writing with an urgent request to work in a bipartisan manner to pass legislation before midnight Saturday, September 30, to avert a lapse in the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) authorization. **The bipartisan Airport and Airway Extension Act of 2023 (H.R. 5711) will extend the FAA's current authority for three-months and must be passed.**

We represent an industry responsible for approximately five percent of the U.S. Gross Domestic Product and over 10 million jobs. A lapse in authorization would disrupt the operations of this vital agency and add risk to the safety and security of a system that millions of people rely on every day.

A lapse in FAA authorization would result in many short- and long-term effects to FAA operations. A lapse could complicate the hiring of new air traffic controllers, technicians, and inspectors, delay deployment of key technology upgrades, prevent the FAA from incurring any new obligations for three of its four budget-lines: Airport Improvement Program, Research, Engineering & Development and Facilities & Equipment programs, and also stop the Civil Reserve Air Fleet (CRAF) program. The agency would also lose its authority to collect taxes on airline tickets and general aviation fuel, a critical way in which the agency funds the vast majority of its operations budget.

We have supported the hard work of the House and Senate Committees to complete a multi-year FAA reauthorization bill and remain supportive of those efforts. However, at this time, the most important thing for the U.S. traveling public and aviation community is to pass a three-month extension to ensure there is no interruption of the FAA's critical mission.

We remain confident the House and Senate will agree on a new multi-year bipartisan reauthorization legislation this Congress. In order to allow these efforts to be completed, Congress must pass a three-month extension of the FAA's operating authority. We urge you to pass H.R. 5711 before October 1.

Sincerely,

Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association
Air Line Pilots Association
Airlines for America
Air Medical Operators Association
Airport Consultants Council

Airports Council International-North America
American Association of Airport Executives
American Council of Engineering Companies
Associated General Contractors of America
Association of Flight Attendants-CWA
Association of Professional Flight Attendants
Association for Uncrewed Vehicle Systems International
Cargo Airline Association
Commercial Drone Alliance
Experimental Aircraft Association
General Aviation Manufacturers Association
Helicopter Association International
National Air Carrier Association
National Air Traffic Controllers Association
National Air Transportation Association
National Business Aviation Association
NetJets Association of Shared Aircraft Pilots
Professional Aviation Safety Specialists
Regional Airline Association
Service Employees International Union
Sheet Metal & Air Conditioning Contractors Association
Small UAV Coalition
The American Society of Civil Engineers
Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO
Transport Workers Union
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
U.S. Travel Association