



July 28, 2011

The Honorable John L. Mica  
Chairman  
House Committee on Transportation and  
Infrastructure  
2165 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nick J. Rahall, II  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Transportation and  
Infrastructure  
2163 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Mica and Ranking Member Rahall:

On behalf of the Airports Council International-North America (ACI-NA), which represents 194 local, regional, and state governing bodies that own and operate commercial airports throughout the United States, I am writing to urge Congress to pass a clean extension of the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA's) operating authority as soon as possible.

The airport industry is deeply concerned as we are now on the sixth day of the FAA shutdown and newspapers across the country, in communities both large and small, are filled with articles about stop work orders that have left construction sites empty, having a huge impact on the construction sector. Projects like the construction of the FAA air traffic control tower in Abilene, Texas a \$15.7 million project; or construction equipment that is now idle in Oakland, California costing \$6,000 per day are just two examples. Some airports have been forced to postpone critical safety projects until sometime next year. Glacier International Airport in Kalispell, Montana has been forced to postpone a critical runway project until next year that would have created an estimated 50-70 construction jobs in a community with a 13 percent unemployment rate.

The flying public has paid into the Airport and Airway Trust Fund (AATF) to ensure the national aviation infrastructure is maintained in good condition. The longer the delay continues, the greater the number of airport construction projects delayed. And the longer we are prevented from creating much needed jobs in our communities. In Fresno, California, where unemployment is at 16.8 percent, they are waiting for the award of AIP funding for nine projects that would create an estimated 220 direct jobs.

The impact of the shutdown has prevented ticket taxes and segment fees from being deposited into the AATF causing the aviation trust fund to lose an estimated \$200 million per week, which is used to pay for

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the Airport Improvement Program and other critical FAA functions including air traffic control and safety inspections. This will have long-term financial implications for the airport industry and the AATF, putting future investment in our nation's aviation infrastructure at risk.

We urge you to please pass a clean extension of the FAA to ensure the system keeps operating while you work out the remaining policy differences between the House and Senate versions of the FAA reauthorization bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Principato". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Greg Principato  
President  
Airports Council International-North America

CC: The Honorable Tom Petri  
The Honorable Jerry F. Costello