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March 6, 2017

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Ranking Member
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
2164 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20015

Dear Ranking Member DeFazio:

On behalf of airport executives around the country, I am writing to thank you for your long-standing commitment to improving our nation's infrastructure and for supporting airport calls to eliminate the outdated federal cap on local Passenger Facility Charges. Doing away with the antiquated federal cap would help airports repair aging facilities and build infrastructure necessary to accommodate rising demand.

As you well know, airports have enormous capital needs and limited ways to pay for the growing list of necessary infrastructure projects. The FAA estimates that airports have \$6.5 billion annually in projects eligible for federal funding. However, Congress has provided less than half that amount for actual construction projects in recent years. Meanwhile, our colleagues at Airports Council International-North America estimate that airports need \$20 billion annually to meet all their infrastructure needs.

We realize that in this current budget climate, it is difficult for Congress to dramatically increase federal funding for airport infrastructure projects. That's why we believe it is so important that the Congress eliminate the outdated PFC cap, which hasn't been adjusted for the past 17 years. Lifting the cap would represent the biggest bang for the infrastructure buck with the least impact on the federal budget. It would also allow airports to control their own destinies in terms of critical infrastructure projects.

We are grateful that you helped create the PFC program almost 30 years ago. Considering the enormous challenges that airports face today, we're also pleased that you and Rep. Thomas Massie have introduced H.R. 1265, a bipartisan bill to completely eliminate the PFC cap. Like both of you, we strongly believe that airports need additional local flexibility to fund their safety, security, and capacity projects.

Airport executive are also pleased that your bill would eliminate the so-called "significant contribution" requirement for large and medium hub airports that impose PFCs above \$3. This unnecessary requirement makes the PFC application and approval process far more cumbersome, costly, and time-consuming than it needs to be. Doing away with this outdated requirement would help large airports move forward with their critical infrastructure projects in a timelier manner.

Thank you again for your long-standing support for improving our nation's infrastructure and for standing up for airports in Oregon and around the country. We look forward to continuing to work with you, Rep. Massie, and other supporters as Congress prepares to consider legislation to reauthorize the Federal Aviation Administration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Todd Hauptli". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Todd Hauptli
President and CEO
American Association of Airport Executives