



March 16, 2017

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
U.S. House of Representatives
2134 Rayburn Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Thomas Massie
U.S. House of Representatives
2453 Rayburn Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: California Airports Council Supports H.R. 1265 Rebuilding America's Airport Infrastructure

Dear Representative DeFazio and Representative Massie:

On behalf of the California Airports Council (CAC), I write to voice our strong support for H.R. 1265, the "Investing in America: Rebuilding America's Airport Infrastructure Act". This measure will remove an outdated cap on the passenger facility charge (PFC), increasing airports' local control to invest in critical capital infrastructure projects. The CAC is comprised of the 33 commercial service airports in California collectively serving over 200 million passengers in 2016.

As you know, Congress created the PFC program, a per-passenger user fee, with the enactment of the Aviation Expansion and Capacity Act of 1990 (P.L. 101-58). PFCs are used to finance, wholly or in part, projects approved by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to improve capacity, reduce noise, or stimulate competition among airlines. Collection authority of the PFC is not indexed to inflation and Congress has not amended the user fee since 2000. Now, seventeen years later, the PFC's worth has dropped to approximately half of its original value.

Airports Council International-North America estimates that investment needs for Airport Improvement Program (AIP) projects and non-AIP projects combined are \$100 billion over the next five years, or \$20 billion per year. Maintaining the cap at the current level is disadvantageous to airports across the nation seeking financing for sustained and aggressive investments to rebuild and rehabilitate aging facilities. Passenger traffic is projected to continue to increase over the next decade and airports must modernize to meet safety and security requirements, as well as the needs of the passenger. In addition to supporting facility needs, providing airports the ability to generate more local revenue through the PFC will reduce federal spending by \$400 million annually.

For the reasons mentioned above the CAC strongly supports H.R. 1265. We thank you for your commitment to this issue and stand ready to provide support to this significant issue when possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Deborah Flint". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Deborah Flint
President
California Airports Council