



April 15, 2011

The Honorable John D. Rockefeller, IV
Chairman
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science,
and Transportation
254 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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

The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science,
and Transportation
560 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nick J. Rahall, II
Ranking Member
House Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rockefeller, Chairman Mica, Ranking Member Hutchison and Ranking Member Rahall:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we are writing to urge you to adopt the following priorities that are of great importance to airports, state, city and county governments and the transportation design and construction industry as you begin negotiations on the Federal Aviation Administration Reauthorization bill.

Increase Airport Funding: We ask conferees to lift the cap on the Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) in the conference report, and accept the Senate’s proposal to fund the Airport Improvement Program (AIP) at \$4.0 billion or more a year, and include the Senate’s proposed 95% AIP match for state block grants and small airports. We also ask the conferees to support provisions in both bills that would allow airports whose enplanement numbers dropped below 10,000 to continue to be eligible for AIP minimum apportionments.

Civil Aviation makes up 5.6% of the U.S. economy and investment in aviation infrastructure is crucial if we are to ensure the national air transport system is able to continue to provide efficient movement of

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passengers and goods across the country and around the world. Every billion dollars invested in infrastructure supports approximately 35,000 jobs according to the U.S. Department of Transportation, and the increased investment we are requesting in this bill will enable airports across the country to maintain and create thousands of jobs, enhance service and facilitate economic growth in their communities.

The National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS), which identifies the safety, security, and environmental needs of airports, estimates that over the five-year period of 2010-2015 there will be \$52.2 billion in airport development projects eligible for Airport Improvement Program (AIP) grants. It also noted that more than half of the AIP eligible infrastructure development needed is intended to rehabilitate existing infrastructure and keep airports up to the standards necessary for the aircraft that use them. Furthermore, the ACI-NA Capital Needs Survey (which includes those projects not eligible for AIP funding) shows that all airport infrastructure needs amount to \$80.1 billion between 2011 and 2015. The only way airports will be able to meet these needs is through an increase in the PFC coupled with a robust AIP program.

Reauthorize the Small Community Air Service Development Program (SCASD): We ask that the House recede to the Senate and accept its language on SCASD. Designed to help smaller communities enhance air service, SCASD has helped numerous small communities secure enhancements that are responsive to their air transportation needs and whose benefits are expected to continue after the initial expenditures expire.

Continue and Strengthen the Essential Air Service (EAS) Program: We ask that the House recede to the Senate position on EAS and reject the service limitations adopted by the Senate that would cut more than 40 cities from the program. EAS has allowed airlines to continue serving small and rural communities while providing a critical link to the national and international air transportation system. The program plays a key economic role in local communities by attracting and retaining businesses, and often provides the only option for air service to those in rural communities.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests. Please do not hesitate to us with any questions or if we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

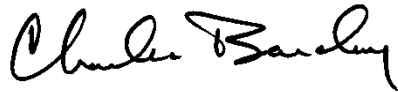


Paula P. Hochstetler
President
Airport Consultants Council



Greg Principato
President
Airports Council International – North America

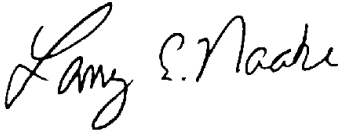
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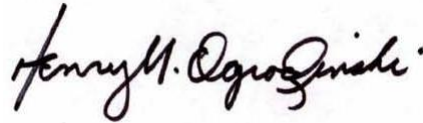
Charles Barclay
President
American Association of Airport Executives



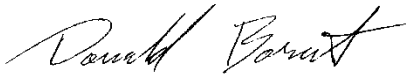
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