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COALITION**

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July 28, 2011

Dear Senator,

The lapse in the authorization for the federal aviation programs that began July 23 is delivering another blow to the U.S. design and construction industry that is still suffering disproportionately from the impacts of the 2008 recession. As a result of this congressional impasse, airport infrastructure improvement projects have been delayed across the country and workers have been sent home.

The last multi-year authorization of these programs expired in September 2007 and the Federal Aviation Administration had been operating under a series of 20 short-term extensions. While we are extremely disappointed a multi-year aviation bill is not in place after nearly 4 years, allowing the programs to be shut down over policy disagreements between members of Congress sends a disturbing signal about the predictability and continuity of federal transportation investment.

The stability of the federal transportation programs is crucial for project owners to implement multi-year transportation plans and for the construction industry to make capital and personnel decisions necessary to build these projects. If, however, Congress is unable to keep transportation funds flowing, the partnership between project owners, the construction industry and the federal government is undermined.

The nation needs a multi-year aviation reauthorization bill as soon as possible. At a minimum, however, a short-term extension should be passed immediately to allow important aviation improvements to move forward and workers in the construction industry to return to their jobs while a long-term measure is being finalized.

Sincerely,

The Transportation Construction Coalition