

February 26, 2018

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Speaker Ryan and Minority Leaders Schumer and Pelosi:

As representatives of a broad array of organizations including general aviation pilots, consumer groups, manufacturers, businesses, airports, state and local aviation officials, management associations and unions representing hardworking Americans, we look forward to working with Congress on developing a bipartisan infrastructure package. At the same time, we strongly urge you to oppose any attempts to include a divisive and costly proposal to remove our nation's air traffic control (ATC) system from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in any comprehensive infrastructure bill or in any other legislation.

As you all know, bipartisan support for legislation investing in our nation's infrastructure will be critical to getting a bill to the President's desk. While Congress will face many challenges as it considers a comprehensive infrastructure bill, the divisive ATC privatization proposal which is full of risk and unintended consequences should not be one of them.

The lack of consensus in handing over our ATC system to a board dominated by the airlines and their interests has for almost two years now prevented the House from moving a long term FAA Reauthorization bill. The airlines constantly point the finger at ATC for delays, but the Department of Transportation's own data reveals that airline-caused problems far surpass weather and air traffic control issues. The airlines have repeatedly demonstrated an inability to manage their own operations let alone our already safe ATC system all while taking in over \$50 billion in "ancillary fees" from their passengers.

In fact, a recent CNBC poll shows that a majority of Americans oppose privatizing the nation's ATC system. Congress should focus on finding solutions that will garner strong industry support to help rebuild our nation's infrastructure. For the aviation industry, that means modernization not privatization.

Access to our national airspace and ecosystem of airports creates jobs and generates local economic activity which helps make our aviation system work for all Americans. In fact, general aviation alone generates \$219 billion in total economic output in the United States and creates 1.1 million jobs.

Our national network of thousands of airports connect many rural communities to the rest of the world and forges a link for small businesses to their suppliers and customers so they can compete in a global economy. To remain competitive, we must ensure that airports of all sizes from small rural general aviation airports to larger commercial hub airports have the resources to expand their infrastructure needs, repair old facilities, or improve aviation safety. Therefore, support for our nation's airports both large and small should be considered in any national infrastructure package.

Another national asset is our ATC system which is the largest, safest, most complex system in the world. While many in the aviation community oppose ATC privatization, everyone agrees on the need to modernize the system. The FAA's NextGen program continues to make progress as several key platforms are either fully deployed or progressing towards full deployment. These achievements are due in large part to the skilled work of FAA employees who operate, manage, maintain, certify and build the NAS. Privatization would disrupt NextGen deployment and distract the focus of those responsible for the safest and most efficient system on earth.

Accelerating investment in NextGen as part of any infrastructure package will expedite the benefits for all users of the system including general aviation, commercial airlines and consumers.

Again, as Congress works to bring our nation's infrastructure into the 21st century, we again urge you to not support the inclusion of the divisive proposal that would hand over our ATC system to a private monopoly. We look forward to working with Congress to find common sense, bipartisan solutions, that create good paying jobs and provide benefits to all aviation users.

Sincerely,

Air Care Alliance  
Airborne Law Enforcement Association  
Aircraft Electronics Association  
Aircraft Kit Industry Association  
Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association  
Airports Association of North Dakota  
Alabama Business Aviation Association  
Alaska Airmen Association  
American Bonanza Society  
American Helicopter Society International  
Antique Airplane Association  
Arizona Business Aviation Association  
Arizona Flight Training Workgroup  
Arizona Pilots Association, AZ  
Arkansas Airport Operators Association  
Association of Air Medical Services  
Association of California Airports  
Association of Critical Care Transport  
Aviation Council of Alabama  
Aviation Council of Pennsylvania

Aviation Museum of Kentucky  
Balloon Federation of America  
Beech Aero Club of Frederick, MD  
Bessemer Airport Authority, AL  
California Agricultural Aircraft Association  
California Pilots Association  
Cardinal Flyers Online  
Carolina Aviation Professionals Association  
Centennial Airport Business Pilot's Alliance, CO  
Central Kentucky Regional Airport  
Cessna 120/140 Association  
Cessna Flyer Association  
Cessna Pilots Association  
Cessna Pilots Society  
Chicago Area Business Aviation Association  
Citation Jet Pilot Association  
Clark County Aviation Association, NV  
Clarksville Regional Airport, TN  
Classic Jet Aircraft Association  
Colorado Aeronautical Board  
Colorado Aviation Business Association  
Colorado Pilots Association  
Commemorative Air Force  
Connecticut Business Aviation Group  
Corporate Aircraft Association  
Deer Valley Pilots Association, AZ  
Duncan Aviation  
East Central Ohio Pilots Association  
East Tennessee Pilots Club  
Eastern Region Helicopter Council  
Emergency Volunteer Air Corps  
Experimental Aircraft Association  
False River Regional Airport, LA  
Flight School Association of North America  
Florida Aero Club, FL  
Florida Aviation Business Association  
Flying Dentists Association  
Flying Physicians Association  
FNL Pilots Association  
Friends of Meacham International Airport Association, TX  
General Aviation Alliance of Alabama  
General Aviation Council of Hawaii

General Aviation Manufacturers Association  
Georgia Airports Association  
Georgia Business Aviation Association  
Glasair Aircraft Owners Association  
Granite State Airport Management Association, NH  
Greater Houston Business Aviation Alliance, TX  
Greater St Louis Business Aviation Association, MO  
Greater Waco Aviation Alliance, TX  
Greater Washington Business Aviation Association, DC/VA/MD  
Helicopter Association International  
Houma-Terrebonne Airport, LA  
Houston Regional Aviation Professionals, TX  
Idaho Airport Management Association  
Idaho Aviation Association  
Idaho Business Aviation Association  
Idaho Contract Tower Coalition  
Illinois Pilots Association, IL  
Indiana Business Aviation Association  
Indianapolis Aero Club, IN  
International 180/185 Club  
International Aerobatic Club  
International Cessna 170 Association  
International Council of Air Shows  
Iowa Public Airports Association  
Jim Pietz Aerosports, SD  
Joe Foss Squadron of the Commemorative Air Force, SD  
Kansas Association of Airports  
Kansas Chamber of Commerce  
Kansas City Business Aviation Association  
Kansas Pilots Association  
Kentucky Aviation Association  
Kentucky Business Aviation Association  
Lancair Owners and Builders Organization  
Lawyer Pilots Bar Association  
Light Aircraft Manufacturers Association  
Long Beach Airport Association, CA  
Long Island Business Aviation Association, NY  
Los Angeles Area Helicopter Operators Association, CA  
Louisiana Airport Managers Association, LA  
Love Field Pilots Association, TX  
Maine Aeronautics Association  
Malibu/Mirage Owners & Pilots Association

Maryland Airport Managers Association  
Massachusetts Airport Management Association  
Massachusetts Business Aviation Association  
Mckellar Sipes Regional Airport- Jackson, TN  
Michigan Business Aviation Association  
Mid-Atlantic Aviation Coalition, NJ  
Middle Tennessee Aero Club  
Minnesota Aviation Trades Association  
Minnesota Business Aviation Association  
Minnesota Council of Airports  
Minnesota Pilots Association  
Minnesota Seaplane Association  
Mississippi Airports Association  
Missouri Pilots Association  
Mockingbird Flying Club, SD  
Montana Aviation Trades Association  
Montana Pilots Association  
Monticello Flying Club, VA  
Mooney Summit  
Morristown Aviation Association, NJ  
MU2 Aircraft Owners & Pilots Association  
Naples Municipal Airport, FL  
National Air Transportation Association  
National Association of State Aviation Officials  
National Business Aviation Association  
Nebraska Association of Airport Officials  
Nebraska Aviation Council  
Nebraska Business Aviation Association  
Nevada Business Aviation Association  
New Bedford Regional Pilots Association, MA  
New England Helicopter Council  
New Jersey Aviation Association  
New Mexico Airport Managers Association  
New Mexico Pilots Association  
North American Trainer Association  
North Carolina Agricultural Aviation Association  
North Dakota Agricultural Aviation Association  
North Dakota Association of Aviation Museums  
North Dakota Aviation Council  
North Dakota Business Aviation Association  
North Dakota Experimental Aviation Association  
North Dakota Pilots Association

North Dakota Professional Aviation Mechanics  
North Texas Business Aviation Association  
Northern California Business Aviation Association  
Octopus Flying Club, MD  
Ohio Regional Business Aviation Association  
Oklahoma Airport Operators Association  
Oklahoma Business Aviation Association  
Oklahoma Pilots Association  
Oregon Airport Management Association  
Oregon Aviation Industries  
Oregon Pilots Association  
Ozark Regional Business Aviation Group, MO  
Pacific Northwest Business Aviation Association  
Partnership for Corporate Aviation Training, TX  
Patient Airlift Services  
Piper Flyer Association  
Prescott Airport Users Association, AZ  
Quincy-Gadsden Airport Authority, FL  
Recreational Aviation Foundation  
Rhode Island Pilots Association  
Russellville Regional Airport, AR  
San Antonio Area Business Aviation Alliance, TX  
San Carlos Airports Association, CA  
Sanderson Farms, MS  
Seaplane Pilots Association  
Smyrna/Rutherford County Airport, TN  
Soaring Society of America  
Sonix Builders & Pilots Foundation  
South Carolina Aviation Association  
South Dakota Pilots Association  
South Florida Business Aviation Association  
Southern California Aviation Association  
Southern Colorado Business Aviation Group  
Southern Museum of Flight, AL  
Spokane Airport Tenants Association, WA  
Stuttgart Municipal Airport, AR  
Tampa Bay Aviation Association, FL  
Taylorcraft Owners Club  
Tennessee Aviation Association  
Tennessee Aviation Hall of Fame  
Tennessee Business Aviation Association  
Teterboro Users Group, NJ

Texans for General Aviation, TX  
Texas Corporate Aviation Schedulers and Dispatchers Group  
Tiger Flying Club, MD  
Twin Cessna Flyer  
United States Hang Gliding & Paragliding Association  
United States Parachute Association  
United States Paragliding Association  
Utah Airport Operators Association  
Utah Business Aviation Association  
Utah General Aviation Association  
Van Nuys Airport Association, CA  
Velocity Owners and Builders Association  
Veterans Airlift Command  
Vintage Aircraft Association  
Virginia Aviation Business Association  
Virginia Highlands Airport  
Waco Chamber of Commerce, TX  
Warbirds of America  
Washington Airport Management Association  
Washington Pilots Association  
Washington Seaplane Pilots Association  
Washington State Aviation Alliance  
Washington State Community Airports Association  
West Virginia Airport Managers Association  
Westchester Aircraft Maintenance Association, NY  
Westchester Aviation Association, NY  
Wichita Aero Club, KS  
WingsReality EDU, ME  
Wisconsin Aviation Trades Association  
Wisconsin Business Aviation Association  
Women in Aviation International  
Wyoming Airport Operators Association  
Yankton Regional Aviation Association, SD

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)  
American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO  
Department for Professional Employees, AFL-CIO  
FAA Managers Association  
Federal Managers Association  
Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association  
Metal Trades Department, AFL-CIO  
National Black Coalition of Federal Aviation Employees  
National Council of Social Security Management Associations

National Federation of Federal Employees  
National Hispanic Coalition of Federal Aviation Employees  
National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU)  
National Weather Service Employees Organization  
Patent Office Professional Association  
Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization, Inc. (PATCO)  
Professional Association of Aeronautical Center Employees (PAACE)  
Professional Aviation Safety Specialists  
Professional Managers Association  
Senior Executives Association  
United Steelworkers (USW)

Consumer Action  
Flyers Rights

Over 100 Mayors from across the U.S. voice opposition to ATC Privatization

<https://www.nbaa.org/advocacy/letters/20170306-mayors-house-letter.pdf>

<https://www.nbaa.org/advocacy/letters/20170306-mayors-senate-letter.pdf>

100 Business CEO's from across the U.S. voice opposition to ATC Privatization

<https://www.nbaa.org/advocacy/issues/modernization/20170619-CEO-ATC-Letter-House.pdf>

<https://www.nbaa.org/advocacy/issues/modernization/20170619-CEO-ATC-Letter-Senate.pdf>