

June 7, 2017

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Ranking Member
House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
2134 Rayburn Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative DeFazio:

On behalf of the thousands of Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) employees represented by our organizations, we are writing to thank you for introducing the Aviation Funding Stability Act. This legislation will protect the integrity of one of our nation's greatest assets, the air traffic control system.

We greatly appreciate that the legislation includes many important elements to continue the FAA's modernization progress through the Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen), maintain and improve aviation safety and efficiency, improve the certification process, and work to ensure an adequate FAA workforce. Most importantly, the legislation keeps the U.S. air traffic control system a part of the federal government. While common-sense reforms must be made at the agency, doing so within the purview of the federal government is paramount to the employees we represent.

As representatives of the employees who design, install, operate and maintain the National Airspace System (NAS), we firmly oppose any proposal to privatize the air traffic control system. We are encouraged that you and many other members of Congress recognize the significant need to keep our aviation system a function of the U.S. government. We have said on multiple occasions—and the statement continues to stand true—we have the safest, largest and most complex aviation system in the world. Privatizing the air traffic control system is a risky and unnecessary step at a time when the focus should be on ensuring adequate funding, continuing aviation growth and modernization, and maintaining our status as the world leader in aviation. Your bill ensures that our air traffic control system remains in the public trust.

The men and women at the FAA are dedicated and highly-skilled federal employees who deserve a stabilized funding stream and adequate staffing levels. We look forward to working with you to strengthen this legislation as it moves forward and ensure the federal workforce continues to perform the critical duties needed to keep this country's aviation system safe.

Sincerely,

American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE)
American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees (AFSCME)
Department for Professional Employees, AFL-CIO
National Association of Government Employees (NAGE)
National Federation of Federal Employees (NFFE)
Office and Professional Employees International Union (OPEIU)
Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization, Inc. (PATCO, Inc.)
Professional Association of Aeronautical Center Employees (PAACE)
Professional Aviation Safety Specialists (PASS)