

June 19, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leaders McConnell and Schumer:

As members of the business community who depend on our nation's air traffic control (ATC) system, we are writing to express our opposition to turning it over to a private board. Instead, we are committed to improving the ATC system with targeted solutions to identified challenges, and believe that is the appropriate way to enhance our aviation system.

By virtually every objective measure, the U.S. ATC system is the largest, safest, most complex and efficient in the world. That is why other countries seek our expertise, and are deploying technologies developed and manufactured here to improve the safety and efficiency of their systems.

We stand by the belief and promise from the federal government to all Americans that our nation's airspace belongs to the public, and every person, business and community should have fair and equitable access, not just a few special interests in select cities and metropolitan areas. This is critical, as equal access to our nation's airspace and airports allows businesses to thrive, and in countries with ATC systems controlled by a private board, business aviation has experienced access restrictions.

Ongoing efforts to more quickly and efficiently modernize the ATC system by implementing technologies, policies and procedures that enable our system to continue to be the world leader for decades to come should be applauded. Business aviation has a history of being at the forefront of these efforts, and we stand ready to make modernization a reality. However, we are strongly opposed to turning our nation's ATC system over to a private board.

Sincerely,

Bahram Akradi
CEO
Life Time Fitness
Minneapolis, MN
Pilot

Don Baldwin
Owner
General Pallet
Flemington, NJ
Pilot

Mark Bissell
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Grand Rapids, MI

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Twin Bridges, MT
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Bryan Currier
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Bass Pro Shops
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CEO, Chairman, & President
Royal Street Corporation/General
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