

May 19, 2016

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the thousands of Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) employees we represent, we are writing to ask you to move forward with a bipartisan FAA reauthorization bill that does not privatize the air traffic control system.

The Senate recently passed by a vote of 95 to 3 its FAA reauthorization bill that includes many targeted solutions designed to ensure the United States remains the world leader in aviation, including streamlining the certification process, increasing safety oversight, improving customer protections and increasing drone safety. Most importantly, and as opposed to the version passed by the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, this bipartisan legislation does not contain divisive language seeking to privatize the air traffic control system.

Aviation plays a critical role in our nation's economy, supporting 12 million jobs and contributing \$2 trillion to our economy annually. Access to airports, and to the nation's airspace, creates jobs, generates economic activity, and helps make America's aviation system work for all Americans. It is crucial that the FAA be allowed to continue serving not only the nearly two million daily air travelers but also the stakeholders, including general aviation users in small towns and rural America, who rely on the aviation system.

In addition, and of utmost concern to the employees we represent, the language in the privatization section of the House bill makes major changes to current labor laws. Under the proposal, employees are not guaranteed access to a grievance process, whistleblower protections are severely cut, union elections are altered, and a hybrid pay and benefit system is introduced in which new employees will be covered by a different system than those who transfer from the FAA. Furthermore, the board of directors in control of the corporation will consist of very little labor representation and gives power to certain special interests. Finally, the system will be funded by a currently unknown user fee scheme, which opens the door to the possibility of insufficient funding that could result in decreases in service and staffing cuts.

The United States has the safest, largest and most complex aviation system in the world. It belongs to the American public and should continue to be operated for their benefit and safety. Any attempt to privatize the air traffic control system, and the coinciding impact on airports, jobs, and economic activity, has consequences that will resonate throughout our country. A comprehensive FAA reauthorization bill must be passed and signed into law by the president before the current extension expires on July 15. Please work with your colleagues to move forward legislation that focuses on areas of consensus and does not privatize the air traffic control system.

Sincerely,

American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE)
American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees (AFSCME)
Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA)
National Association of Government Employees (NAGE)
National Federation of Federal Employees (NFFE)
Professional Association of Aeronautical Center Employees (PAACE)
Professional Aviation Safety Specialists (PASS)