



September 6, 2017

via e-mail

Dear Senators Murkowski and Sullivan and Representative Young,

The Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce urges the US Congress and the Administration to pass FAA Reauthorization legislation prior to the September 30th, 2017 deadline. Airports are significant economic engines for communities, especially in Alaska. Investments in US aviation system operations, improved airport infrastructure, and safety considerations are vital to economic sustainability.

The FAA Reauthorization legislation should include:

- a six-year FAA funding authorization
- additional revenue for the Aviation Trust Fund to ensure solvency of the fund
- increased funding for air traffic control modernization
- increased Aviation Improvement Program (AIP) funding, equitable passenger and cargo entitlements across airport categories, and expanded AIP project eligibility
- allowance for airports to determine the best non-aeronautical land use to maximize airport revenue and economic opportunities
- fully fund the essential air service program and the small community air service development grant program
- continuation of the Federal Contract ATC Tower Program

As discussion occurs, we urge caution regarding the inclusion of air traffic control privatization in the current reauthorization. Privatization is a complex matter and the unique considerations and impacts relative to aviation in the State of Alaska should be carefully considered.

While there will be an increase in costs to the traveling public due to potential increases in aviation fuel taxes, passenger facility charges and other aviation taxes and fees to increase the funding to ensure solvency of the Aviation Trust Fund, failure to invest in the FAA and US aviation infrastructure will lead to higher operating costs, potential degradation of aviation infrastructure and reduced opportunities for businesses and the traveling public.

The US has the world's largest and safest aviation system. Timely FAA Reauthorization and full funding of the Aviation Trust Fund will ensure this continues. The previous FAA authorization deadline was extended from July 2016 until 30 September 2017. Studies have shown that investment in infrastructure is one of the best ways to ensure a strong, long-term economy. Delaying the FAA Reauthorization will lead to a lack of confidence in the US aviation industry and reductions in long-term private sector investment. If another short term extension is the only viable outcome before 30 September, we ask for the extension cites an effort to make this the last short term extension before passing reauthorization legislation.

The Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce (GFCC) represents over 750 businesses throughout Interior Alaska. The success of our members is directly linked

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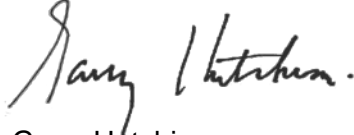
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to their ability to do business in an environment that has the necessary infrastructure to support and promote economic development. We write to you to ask Congress to pass the FAA Reauthorization legislation and that the President sign it prior to the 30 September 2017 deadline.

Sincerely,



Marisa Sharrah
Fairbanks Chamber
President and CEO



Garry Hutchison
Fairbanks Chamber
Board Chair

Cc: Governor Bill Walker
Commissioner Marc Luiken, State of Alaska DOT & PF
Chris Eyer, US Chamber