

June 29, 2016

The Honorable John Thune
Chairman
Commerce, Science & Transportation Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bill Nelson
Ranking Member
Commerce, Science & Transportation Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bill Shuster
Chairman
Transportation & Infrastructure Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Ranking Member
Transportation & Infrastructure Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators and Representatives,

As you work develop another temporary measure to ensure the continued operation of the federal aviation programs beyond July 15, it is essential that any policy reforms included in such a measure are complemented with adequate resources to upgrade the nation's airport infrastructure network. Specifically, I urge you to ensure any future aviation program authorizations—regardless of duration—authorize at least the Senate-passed \$3.75 billion in Airport Improvement Program (AIP) investment.

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) data clearly document a disturbing combination of more than \$30 billion in unmet airport capital needs amidst projections of a 40 percent increase in passenger travel by 2035 and a doubling of air freight over the next 20 years. While operational and technical upgrades are needed to maintain the efficiency of the U.S. civil aviation system, these reforms must be accompanied with necessary airport infrastructure enhancements.

Unfortunately, federal investment has been stagnant since FY 2012 and an increased commitment to airport infrastructure is long overdue. Both the Senate passed FAA Reauthorization Act of 2016 and the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee passed Aviation Innovation, and Reform Reauthorization Act recognized the current AIP program funding level of \$3.35 billion is inadequate and included greater capital investment levels. Furthermore, the Congressional Budget Office data show the Airport and Airways Trust Fund has a prudent balance and revenue situation and could support such a modest increase in AIP investment.

Again, I urge you to increase AIP funding to \$3.75 billion as part of the next FAA authorization extension. The nation's airport capital infrastructure needs this boost now rather than waiting until a full reauthorization can be completed.

Sincerely,



T. Peter Ruane
President and CEO