



July 25, 2017

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins
Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation-HUD
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation-HUD
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Cochran, Chairman Collins, Ranking Member Leahy, and Ranking Member Reed:

On behalf of Airports Council International–North America (ACI-NA) – which represents local, regional and state governing bodies that own and operate commercial airports throughout the United States – I am writing in enthusiastic support of provisions you included in the Fiscal Year 2018 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act to improve airport infrastructure by modernizing the local passenger facility charge (PFC) user fee on originating flights and increasing funding for the Airport Improvement Program (AIP).

Your efforts to improve airport infrastructure come at a critical time – with passenger enplanements at a record high and federal infrastructure investments stagnant. According to ACI-NA's latest Infrastructure Needs Survey, airports across the country report they have \$100 billion in infrastructure needs over the next five years. With half of those needs having no identified funding source, all airports would benefit from having the ability to generate more local revenue for runways, taxiways, terminals, gates, and other projects that improve aviation safety, increase capacity, and improve the passenger experience. Modernizing the PFC and bolstering AIP now will give airports and the local communities they serve the funding flexibility they need to improve their facilities and offer more air service options to passengers.

Thank you again for your dedication to improving America's infrastructure. Airports greatly appreciate your hard work on this bill and stand ready to work with you to improve our nation's critical aviation infrastructure.

Sincerely,

Kevin M. Burke
President and CEO
ACI-NA