



Protecting the Airport Improvement Program (AIP)

- The current Continuing Resolution, which funds the federal government through January 15, 2014, will provide the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) with the funds necessary to prevent the return of furloughs for air traffic controllers. As Congress faces funding challenges for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2014, America's airports have significant concerns about the prospect of a return of furloughs at the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) which will once again impact air traffic and our nation's aviation system. Airports made the sacrifice via Airport Improvement Program (AIP) funding to end FAA furloughs earlier this year and return stability to our aviation system for the remainder of FY13.
- AIP grants are again being viewed as FAA's preferred scapegoat to bridge its budgetary stop-gaps. While airports don't want a return to the FAA furloughs of this spring and we are generally supportive of granting FAA the flexibility to move funds to manage through budget cuts mandated by sequestration, AIP funds should remain protected, as mandated by the Budget Control Act of 2011.
- Airports will vigorously oppose any efforts to use airport infrastructure funding (AIP) to pay for FAA operations and to mitigate potential FAA employee furloughs.
- Use of AIP monies to fund FAA operations is a misguided approach which disregards the fact that passengers are paying a portion of their airline ticket taxes for airport capital improvements, in particular the safety and security projects necessary to keep U.S. airports' infrastructure reliable and competitive with the rest of the world. Far from being a piggybank into which Congress can dip to cover short-term budget solutions, these funds ensure airports can make essential, long-term investments in constructing and upgrading facilities.
- Additionally, the Senate Appropriations Committee recognized the impact that the transfer of AIP funds to end the FAA furloughs in April has had on our nation's airports. The Senate FY14 Transportation Appropriations bill stated that, "The Committee views this use of limited airport resources in fiscal year 2013 as a one-time occurrence aimed at averting serious national impacts."
- We stand prepared to work with the FAA and Congress to identify solutions and areas of potential flexibility, however America's airports will strongly protect critical AIP funding from another raid to fix FAA furloughs.