



November 25, 2009

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
The Honorable Candice Miller
The Honorable Bobby Rush
Jobs Now Caucus
2186 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Kaptur, Congressman Rush and Congresswoman Miller:

As you prepare for the first meeting of the Congressional Jobs Now Caucus, Airports Council International-North America (ACI-NA) urges you to include funding for airport infrastructure projects in your discussion as one way to help create jobs and promote economic growth. The improvement of airport infrastructure helps increase safety for the traveling public; is an investment in the future of our national transportation infrastructure system; and creates construction jobs today while paving the way for job creation in the future.

Many local communities have seen the positive effects of the \$1.1 billion in Airport Improvement Program (AIP) funding included in the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA). Airports worked with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to move the money from Washington to the local communities quickly using a process that is well known and understood, and one which provides clear guidelines. As you may recall, the FAA had, by June, reported that all but \$5 million of the \$1.1 billion appropriated had been authorized to 323 separate projects throughout the United States.

I am attaching a copy of ACI-NA's testimony at the June 25 Transportation and Infrastructure Committee's 120-Progress Report hearing on the impact of H.R. 1. It provides examples of airport infrastructure projects underway across the country and the positive economic impact on their communities in both the short and long term.

Earlier this year FAA officials noted that there were \$3 billion in shovel-ready AIP projects that could be completed in two years. And the National Plan of

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Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS) estimates that between 2009 and 2013 there are \$49.7 billion in airport development projects eligible for AIP grants.

Though the economic slowdown has impacted the entire aviation industry, airports continue to have a responsibility to maintain our facilities to meet passenger safety, security and capacity needs today as well as into the future. We are committed to making the necessary infrastructure investments to prepare for the expected 25% growth in service that the FAA predicts our industry will face by 2021, when it is estimated that one billion people will take to the sky.

In addition to creating jobs today, further investment in airport infrastructure would allow the industry to take a step forward in preparing for NextGen, which begins and ends at the airport. As the Government Accountability Office noted in its September 2008 report, Next Generation Air Transportation System: Status of Systems Acquisition and the Transition to the Next Generation Air Transportation System, "With regard to airport infrastructure, a transition to NextGen will also depend on the ability of airports to handle greater capacity." The report states that airports will play a critical role in implementing infrastructure and procedural enhancements needed to meet identified capacity needs, such as runway and taxiway enhancements. Airports will also be on the front line in providing additional airport terminal and roadway capacity need to take full advantage of the airfield and airspace capacity increases NextGen will provide.

We ask that the Caucus consider additional airport infrastructure funding as you work on a new economic recovery package as one way to continue helping create jobs and hasten our country's economic recovery. Please don't hesitate to contact me if we could provide you with any additional information.

Sincerely,



Greg Principato
President
Airports Council International-North America

Attachment