



June 28, 2010

The Honorable John D. Rockefeller, IV
Chairman
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science
and Transportation
254 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable James L. Oberstar
Chairman
House Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rockefeller and Chairman Oberstar:

On behalf of the 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 to stress the importance of passing a comprehensive, multi-year reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) as soon as practicable. Without action immediately, the House and Senate will be forced to approve the 14th extension of Vision 100 which was signed into law seven years ago.

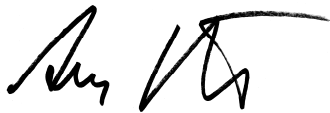
In addition, I want to reiterate the importance to the airport industry that the final FAA Reauthorization bill includes the House language raising the ceiling for the Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) from \$4.50 to \$7.00. The PFC is a key financing component of the airport industry used for critical safety and security projects, as well as maintaining airline competition in local communities. Airports cannot afford to delay these important projects aimed at keeping aviation passengers safe and secure. As the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) noted in their 2010 Report Card for American Infrastructure, there is a projected \$40.7 billion shortfall in airport funding needed to meet the \$87 billion in investments in infrastructure improvements that ASCE estimates will be required over the next five years.

When Congress created the PFC in 1990 one of its purposes was to prevent airlines from inhibiting new carriers from coming in and providing competition. The consolidation of the airline industry gives increased market power to airlines that could be used to block efforts by other carriers to enter or increase their presence in a particular market. This was a concern raised by members in all four recent congressional hearings on airline mergers along with concerns that such action would lead to increases in fares. The PFC is a proven tool airports have used consistently to bring in new carriers to provide increased service and enhance competition in a given area. The low cost carriers have been major beneficiaries of competition enhancing projects funded by the PFC.

Page Two
June 28, 2010

Passing an FAA Reauthorization bill now is critical. The strength of our airport system is dependent upon Congress providing airports with the resources necessary to help our country have a safe, secure and efficient aviation system. Airports look forward to working with both chambers as they move to complete the FAA Reauthorization process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Greg Principato', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Greg Principato
President
Airports Council International-North America