



March 7, 2016

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Science & Transportation
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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

Dear Chairman Thune and Ranking Member Nelson:

As the Committee embarks on consideration of a multi-year bill to reauthorize the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), we are writing to urge your support for increased funding that will help improve the safety and efficiency of our nation's airports.

The over 200 member companies of the Airport Consultants Council (ACC) are proud of our role in assisting airports of all sizes improve and enhance their facilities. According to the Airports Council International-North America, airports have over \$15.4 billion annually in infrastructure improvements to modernize the aging runways and terminals, relieve congestion and delays, and foster competition among airlines. This is far above the current \$6.2 billion provided through the Airport Improvement Program (AIP) and the Passenger Facility Charge (PFCs).

The Committee has an excellent opportunity in the next reauthorization legislation to provide airports the resources required to meet their specific needs. Specifically, we recommend increasing the annual AIP funding levels to a minimum of \$3.5 billion per year, and raising the cap on PFCs to help recapture the lost purchasing power over the last 15 years. Raising the cap on PFCs would not cost the government, and it would provide airports the ability to set their own levels based on locally-determined needs. Not only will this help improve our nation's airports, it will help sustain and increase the important role of the aviation industry, which accounts for nearly 7 percent of the national GDP and supports more than 6 percent of the country's work force.

Thank you for consideration of these views and we look forward to working with you to advance a completed aviation bill as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

T.J. Schulz
President
Airport Consultants Council

cc: Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science & Transportation