

March 3, 2016

Senator John Thune
Chairman
Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

Senator Bill Nelson
Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

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Dear Chairman Thune and Ranking Member Nelson:

I am writing you on behalf of the 150,000 members of the American Society of Civil Engineers, to urge you, as part of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) reauthorization, to increase the annual Airport Improvement Program (AIP) funding level to at least the \$3.5 billion provided in FY 2011. We urge you to ensure a reliable and dedicated revenue stream through the Aviation Fuel Tax. ASCE also supports the increase or elimination of the cap on the Passenger Facilities Charges (PFCs) to permit airports to invest in their own facilities.

With the expiration of the current short-term extension of federal aviation programs ASCE urges you to ensure upgrading the nation's airport infrastructure is a major priority in any multi-year aviation reauthorization proposal. AIP funding and PFCs are the primary sources for funding airport capacity improvement projects.

ASCE's [2013 Report Card for America's Infrastructure](#) gave the nation's aviation system a "D". An aviation system that was once the envy of the world is beginning to be overtaken by countries with ambitious investment programs for development of dozens of airports, and US airports are no longer ranked among the world's best airports by air travelers.

The FAA's Forecast for Fiscal Years 2015 – 2035 projects passenger levels will grow from 776 million in 2015 to 1.1 billion by 2034. The latest Airports Council International –North America (ACI-NA) Capital Needs Survey estimates airports will have more than \$15 billion in annual capital needs between 2015 and 2019. In contrast to these documented demands, AIP funding has been cut from its FY 2011 level of \$3.5 billion to \$3.35 billion in recent years. The PFC cap has remained stagnant at \$4.50 since 2000.

Thank you for your consideration of these views and we look forward to working with you to advance an aviation bill in 2016.

Sincerely



Mark Woodson, P.E., L.S., D.WRE, F.ASCE
President 2016