

**SUMMARY OF
H.R. 6984, THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION EXTENSION ACT OF 2008, PART II
SEPTEMBER 23, 2008**

BACKGROUND

The previous long-term Federal Aviation Administration (“FAA”) reauthorization act, Vision 100 – Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act (P.L. 108-176), expired on September 30, 2007. On September 20, 2007, the House passed H.R. 2881, the “FAA Reauthorization Act of 2007”, to reauthorize FAA programs for fiscal years 2008 through 2011. Because the Senate has been unable to complete action on a long-term FAA reauthorization bill, Congress has passed a series of short-term FAA extension acts. *See P.L. 110-190 and P.L. 110-253.*

The current authority for aviation programs and taxes expires on September 30, 2008.

H.R. 6984

H.R. 6984, the “Federal Aviation Administration Extension Act of 2008, Part II”, extends aviation programs and taxes for six months, through March 31, 2009.

H.R. 6984 provides \$1.95 billion in contract authority for the Airport Improvement Program (“AIP”). The \$1.95 billion provided by H.R. 6984 will enable airports to move forward with important safety and capacity projects, and is sufficient to meet all Letter of Intent (“LOI”) commitments. When annualized, this level of AIP funding equals \$3.9 billion, consistent with both the House and Senate FAA reauthorization bills, and the fiscal year 2009 Concurrent Budget Resolution.

H.R. 6984 also authorizes the appropriation of \$4.5 billion for FAA Operations, \$1.36 billion for Facilities and Equipment (“F&E”), and \$85.5 million for Research, Engineering and Development (“RE&D”), for the six-month period beginning on October 1, 2008. When annualized, these levels of funding equal the following authorization levels for fiscal year 2009: \$9.03 billion for FAA Operations, \$2.72 billion for F&E, and \$171 million for RE&D. These amounts represent the average of the House and Senate Appropriations Committee marks for these programs for fiscal year 2009.

In addition, H.R. 6984 extends the aviation excise taxes through March 31, 2009. These taxes are necessary to support the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, which in recent years has provided about 80 percent of the FAA’s budget. H.R. 6984 also extends the FAA’s authority to make expenditures from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, through March 31, 2009.

To allow aviation programs to continue under the same terms and conditions as were in effect during the previous authorization period, H.R. 6984 also extends several other provisions of Vision 100.