



**ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES OF FLORIDA**  
*The Voice of Florida Business Since 1920*

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July 17, 2017

U.S. Senate – Florida  
U.S. House of Representatives – Florida  
Washington, DC

Secretary Elaine Chao  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Re: AIRR Act

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

Associated Industries of Florida (AIF), *The Voice of Florida Business since 1920*, has hundreds of members who are engaged primarily or largely in transportation matters. Recently, Florida surpassed Texas to place number two in number of annual enplanements. Florida Governor Rick Scott's administration has invested over \$1 billion in our airport system in recent years and the U.S. Department of Transportation has recently awarded \$10.6 million in Airport Improvement Program grants to Florida airports. America's air-traffic control system, which passengers and cargo flights depend on to improve safety, shorten flights, get planes out of turbulence and reduce delays, has not modernized and advanced as quickly as international friends like Canada, the U.K. and Australia.

The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Aviation Innovation Reform and Reauthorization Act (AIRR Act) is a proposal that establishes a federally-chartered, fully independent, not-for-profit corporation to modernize and update America's air system, much to the benefit of Florida. President Donald Trump's administration has endorsed this transition, and AIF supports the proposed concept.

Of course, protecting the interests of private general aviation and passenger safety through appropriate governmental oversight are important considerations in air traffic as we modernize. AIF members also prioritize protecting trucking from redundant or punitive state and local regulation, allowing our growing airports to lift the cap on user fees used to modernize airports, and rail and port infrastructure improvements to accommodate transportation growth in the cargo and passenger traffic challenges as well.

The AIRR Act by Chairman Shuster provides a great platform to initiate improvements to meet the growing demands of Florida transportation.

Sincerely,

Thomas C. Feeney, III  
President & Chief Executive Officer

cc: U.S. Rep. Bill Shuster, Chair, U.S. Transportation & Infrastructure Committee