



April 28, 2025

Honorable Sam Graves
Chairman, House Committee on
Transportation and Infrastructure
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Rick Larsen
Ranking Member, House Committee on
Transportation and Infrastructure
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Graves and Ranking Member Larsen,

On behalf of more than 300,000 members of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA), I write to express strong support for the Committee's proposal to move forward with a downpayment to modernize our nation's Air Traffic Control (ATC) system and to help recruit and train the best and brightest air traffic controllers.

As an active pilot, I have witnessed firsthand the increasing demands placed on our national airspace, and there is no doubt that updating and enhancing our ATC infrastructure is critical to maintaining safety, efficiency, and economic competitiveness.

Our current ATC system, much of which relies on radar-based technology developed decades ago, is no longer sufficient to handle the growing volume of air traffic or to meet the evolving needs of modern aviation. Technologies, including satellite-based navigation, digital communications, and real-time data sharing, offer significant improvements in safety, fuel efficiency, flight time, and environmental impact.

Modernizing our nation's ATC system will not only reduce delays and create efficiencies but also enhance the ability of controllers and pilots to make better-informed decisions. It is a necessary investment in our transportation infrastructure, one that will strengthen national security, support the aviation industry's growth, and create thousands of high-quality jobs.

Again, we support the Committee's efforts to ensure our nation's ATC system remains the gold standard around the world and that our skies remain safe and accessible for generations to come. These goals will undoubtedly benefit every American.

Thank you for your leadership and the Committee's attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Darren Pleasance
President and CEO