

May 6, 2024

Chairman Sam Graves
U.S. House Transportation and
Infrastructure Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ranking Member Rick Larsen
U.S. House Transportation and
Infrastructure Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Graves and Ranking Member Larsen:

The Global Business Travel Association (GBTA) commends you both for your leadership in delivering the current bipartisan, bicameral Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) reauthorization legislation. GBTA supports the current FAA Reauthorization legislation and calls for its swift passage. GBTA is the world's largest professional association representing the \$1.4 trillion business travel industry. Collectively, our members directly control more than \$345 billion of global business travel and meetings expenditures annually and represent every facet of the global travel industry marketplace.

In 2022, United States business travel spending of \$421.1 billion generated \$484.4 billion in Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Each dollar spent on business travel activity generated about \$1.15 in GDP, meaning U.S. business travel was responsible for about 1.9% of 2022 U.S. GDP. Of the \$484.4 billion of GDP, \$204.1 billion, or 42%, accrued directly to businesses serving business travelers or meeting attendees. Supply chain beneficiaries received additional indirect contributions of \$120.8 billion. Other downstream beneficiaries saw induced contributions of \$159.5 billion, which includes the wage impacts of business travel industry spending on goods and services.

Travel managers have a duty of care to ensure the health and safety of their employees during business travel. Thirty percent of U.S. business trips involve air travel, and safety of the National Airspace System (NAS) is a top concern for organizations sending their employees out on the road. The unfortunate rise of near-miss incidents and runway incursions makes clear that the FAA needs additional resources to safely manage the NAS. For the United States to maintain its status as the gold standard in aviation, we must act without delay.

The aging physical and digital infrastructure of the NAS poses a real threat to the continued recovery and growth of business travel.

GBTA specifically supports the following improvements contained in this long-term package:

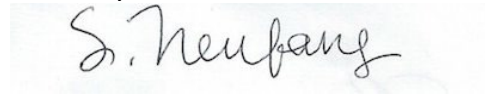
- Upgrades critical FAA systems to improve safety and efficiency for the national airspace, saving passengers time and money, and reducing carbon emissions.
- Requires studies to better understand and improve accessibility and the overall air travel experience for passengers with disabilities.

- Makes necessary workforce investments and creates a long-term talent pipeline for the FAA and aviation industry.

GBTA calls for swift passage of the comprehensive FAA reauthorization. Failure by Congress to do so misses out on critical opportunities to address pressing aviation safety issues, improve the traveler experience, and pave the way for integrating future technologies.

GBTA again thanks you for your leadership on this critical legislation and stands by to assist bringing this bill to final passage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "S. Neufang". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Suzanne Neufang
Chief Executive Officer